

Britain pledges full support US over hostages

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Mrs Thatcher yesterday
Britain's support to the
ites in helping to secure
e of the hostages in

Tehran. The help sought by President Carter includes economic sanctions and, in the absence of results, the severing of diplomatic relations. Vital EEC decisions are expected in the next two weeks.

Decisions by EEC this month

Correspondent

ON PAGE 8

**Red Cross sees hostages
France unimpressed
Carter popularity wanes
Parliamentary report**

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of the United States, by the
militants in Tehran is a viola-
tion of international law".

There could be no acceptance
of any situation short of the
release of these men and
women. Urging coordination of
tactics, Mr Callaghan said this
required maximum consultation
between European and other
like-minded countries.

That meant giving the utmost
support to the United States in
this matter.

Military action, Mr Callaghan
said, would provide no solution
and would give point to the
chilling comment made by Herr
Schmidt, the West German
Chancellor, at the weekend
when he impared the present
situation to the period immedi-
ately prior to Sarajevo.

At that time, he reminded the
House, no one wanted war but
nations drifted into it. If that
was to be avoided there had to
be maximum coordination be-
tween European and like
minded countries and the
United States.

He suggested that if the
various meetings in prospect
failed to reach agreement there
might be another summit at an
even higher level, involving
President Carter if necessary.

From the Liberal benches
Mr David Steel, the party
leader, said diplomatic rela-
tions could not be main-
tained without the absolute
acceptance of the principle of
diplomatic immunity and if this
precedent was allowed without
an adequate response from the
international community it
would be an open invitation to
all dictators of the right and
left to use diplomats as
hostages.

It was unfortunate, he said,
that the President had needed
to ask the European countries
to intensify their efforts to
gain the release of the hostages.

Leading political figures on
both sides of the House respon-
ded enthusiastically to the call
for coordinated support for the
United States.

Mr Geoffrey Rippon, a former
Conservative cabinet minister
at one time in charge of

Government pay bill set to rise 25pc this year

David Blake
Economics Editor

The Chancellor of the Ex-
chequer came under heavy
criticism from MPs yesterday
over the fact that the Govern-
ment's pay bill is expected to
be 25 per cent higher in the
current financial year than in
the financial year 1979-80.

Sir Geoffrey Howe defended
the Government's record by
pointing out that much of the
increase was caused by the
delayed effect of increases
under the Clegg comparability
study set up last year. He said
that, according to new figures
in the months up to March
since the start of a new pay
round last July, settlements in
the public sector had averaged
14 per cent, compared with
18 per cent in the private
sector.

The clash over public sector
pay stole the spotlight at what
was meant to be a more general
questioning by the Treasury
and Civil Service Select Com-
mittee of the Government's
Budget and medium term
financial strategy.

Committee members raised
questions over a number of
important elements in the
government plan, particularly
whether improvements in
nationalized industry perform-
ance and cuts in housing sub-
sidies were possible and
whether the Treasury were
underestimating likely revenue
from North Sea oil.

Treasury officials conceded
that their estimates may have
"erred on the side of caution".
The figure for the government
pay increase emerged during
questioning of Treasury offi-
cials at a morning session of
the committee, set up to moni-
tor the Government's handling
of the economy.

A number of MPs, most of
them Conservatives, expressed
concern at the sharp increase in
the amount of cash being pro-
vided for civil service pay this
year.

The argument that the increase
was inconsistent with the
Government's statement that a
14 per cent cash limit was being
applied to civil service pay this
year. Treasury officials said the
actual increase in the civil ser-
vice pay bill would be 25 per
cent, but pointed out that this
was consistent with the
Government's cash limit.

The 14 per cent figure refers
only to new money being ne-
gotiated during the current pay
round and does not take account
of pay rises still coming through
under the Clegg comparability
award.

The MPs returned to the
matter at an afternoon session
with Sir Geoffrey. This time
they concentrated on claiming
that, whatever the technical
consistency of the expected pay
Continued on page 17, col 2



An entry for the Royal Academy's summer exhibition moving in yesterday, the sending-in day for oils and comparable media. The exhibition opens on May 31.

Mixed response on pay from teachers

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The Clegg commission's re-
commendations of pay increases
averaging 18.2 per cent for
600,000 school and further edu-
cation teachers in England,
Wales and Scotland has re-
ceived a mixed response from
unions.

The commission's report, pub-
lished yesterday, recommends
increases on April, 1979,
salaries ranging from 17 per
cent for the lowest-paid class-
room teacher and college lec-
turer to 25 per cent for the
highest-paid headteacher and
college principal.

The recommendations are not
binding on the Government, the
local authorities or the unions.
The Barnham committee, the
national negotiating body on
teachers' pay, will decide
whether to adopt, reject or
modify the commission's pro-
posals.

If adopted in full, the in-
creases would add £755m a year
to the total bill for teachers.
The teachers had asked for
38.7 per cent on March, 1979
salaries, which they said would
restore their salaries to the
position established by the
Houghton Report in 1976.

The teachers' union would
like the recommendation to be
increased to 39.2 per cent on
March, 1979, scales.

Only in the case of the lowest-
paid scale 1 and scale 2 class-
room teacher and the lowest-
paid college lecturer would the
proposed increases be sufficient
to restore salaries to their
Houghton levels, the report
shows.

The National Association of
Schoolmasters and Union of
Women Teachers, the second
largest teachers' union, said
that it was disappointed. The
Clegg recommendation was
about 3 per cent less than
what it believed teachers could
have got a year ago if they had
gone to arbitration. Teachers
had lost about £1,000 each be-
cause of the delay.

It was relieved, however, that
the report was not "controver-
sial" on the question of
conditions of service.

The report states that the
commission's proposals take
into account "the wide range
of extra-curricular activities
which are part of the profes-
sional obligation of teachers".

The union said it would not
accept the report's recommenda-
tions and that it was determined
to see the Houghton scale of

relatively restored in full.

The National Union of
Teachers, the largest union,
gave the report a guarded but
much more favourable recep-
tion. The report indicated that
about 96 per cent of teachers
would have their salaries
restored to within 5 per cent
of the Houghton award. Mr
Frederick Jarvis, general sec-
retary, said:

Teachers on the average
salary of £5,184 in March, 1979,
would get £6,669 after Clegg.
It had given teachers a lot more
than going to arbitration would
have done, he said.

He welcomed the fact that
the Clegg report made no
attempt to tie its recommenda-
tions to alterations in teachers'
conditions of service, and that
it had not proposed separate
scales for primary and sec-
ondary teachers.

The National Association of
Head Teachers, representing
two-thirds of head teachers,
said it was disappointed by the
report, which did almost
nothing to restore differentials.
But the Secondary Heads' Asso-
ciation, which represents a
majority of secondary school
heads, gave the report a broad
welcome and said that it went a
substantial way to restoring the
Houghton terms.

The teachers have made a
separate claim from April,
1980, of 20 per cent, on top of
whatever they receive from the
Clegg recommendations, to
cover the increased cost of liv-
ing since March, 1979.

Report, page 2
Leading article, page 15



Professor Hugh Clegg: Rises averaging 18 per cent urged.

Go ahead given for British reactors

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Mr David Howell, the
Secretary of State for Energy,
yesterday gave the nuclear
industry the go-ahead to build
the phase of the Government's
nuclear programme announced
in December.

Orders for the hardware for
two British-designed advanced
gas-cooled reactors (AGR), are
now expected to be placed in
the summer and the nuclear
component industry will be
extremely relieved.

The British designed sec-
tion of the programme has
been under threat of cancella-
tion or severe delay since the
Central Policy Review Staff,
the Government's "think tank",
was called in to review the orders
three weeks ago.

Re dunderdums would have
been inevitable if work had
been delayed for long on either
the station for the South of
Scotland Electricity Board at
Torness or the planned second
station at Heysham, in Lancas-
hire, for the Central Electric-
ity Generating Board.

If both had been cancelled
the boiler-making plant at the
Gateshead works of Northern
Engineering Industries might
have closed with the total loss
of more than 1,000 jobs. Delay
or cancellation would have
affected many companies in the
nuclear industry. Until Hey-
sham and Torness were planned
they had been without an order
for a decade.

The National Nuclear Cor-
poration (NNC), which is the
main contractor for the
stations, now has an estimated
total of £2,450m at March,
1980, prices, to award contracts
to the component industry
including NEI, GEC, Whessoe
and Babcock Power Engineer-
ing.

With the decision to go
ahead with the AGR orders,
the way is now clear for a
successor to be appointed to

Mr Aldington as chairman of
the NNC.

The NNC is to be reorganized
and appointment of a chairman
will allow this to go ahead. The
Central Electricity Generating
Board is then expected to send
a letter of intent asking for a
licence from Westinghouse in
the United States to build the
first pressurized water reactor
(PWR) in the United Kingdom.

This will start the second
phase of the Government's
nuclear programme which is to
order approximately one
nuclear station a year for the
next 10 years. The first two are
to be of British design.

The future of the AGR pro-
gramme was thrown into doubt
after the Central Electricity
Generating Board admitted it
would overshoot its cash limit,
imposed for 1979-80 by the
Government and sharply
reduced its estimate of future
growth in electricity demand.

A strong campaign was
mounted within the Department
of Energy to keep the AGR
orders alive. Cancellation only
three months after Mr Howell
had announced his programme
would have been a heavy
political blow.

At one time the Prime Min-
ister seemed determined to
cancel; opposition to the Brit-
ish design at No 10 is thought
to be strong, but Mr Howell's
advice that it would be unwise
to rely on an American design
yet to be accepted in Britain
was taken.

Mr Howell told the House of
Commons that the spending of
£2,450m between now and
1986-88 when the two stations
were to be commissioned had
been included both within the
cash limits awarded to the
electricity authorities for 1980-
81 and within the medium term
plans in the White Paper on
Public Spending. The English
boards have had their over-
spending for 1979-80 written
off. Leading article, page 15
GEC's turbine order, page 17

Gandhi escapes knife-throwing attack

By

by vested interests who do not
work in the field of Mrs
Gandhi's programmes".
Sources close to the Prime
Minister had denied an assas-
sination attempt, but Mr
Gurcharan Singh, a Delhi Police
Commissioner, said that a man
of 37 from Baroda, Gujarat, had
been arrested and, after
questioning, charged with
attempted murder.

Mrs Gandhi is due to leave
on Wednesday for Salisbury
to take part in Zimbabwe's inde-
pendence celebrations.

The man, who appeared in
the crowd, eyewitnesses said,
was overpowered by Mrs
Gandhi's own bodyguard, three
police officials, and security
men of the Indian Parliament.
The 4th knife, the police said,
had grazed one of the police-
men near the Prime Minister.

The police gave the arrested
man's name as Ram Lalwani.

They said that Mr Lalwani,
who worked in a textile mill,
a fitter, was reported to have
been involved in a land
dispute, which he fought and
lost right up to the Supreme
Court. He had since written
pamphlets attacking various
political leaders.

Mrs Gandhi had gone to the
anniversary celebration in the
company of Mr B. Shankaranani,
her Education Minister, who is
the Harijan (previously referred
to as Untouchables) holding the
highest post. She pledged her
Government to remove caste
prejudice against those at the
bottom of the Hindu social
scale. She pointed out India's
estimated 90 million Harijans
suffer not only from poverty
but also from superstitious dis-
crimination by the higher
castes.

Mrs Gandhi had obtained a
substantial segment of the

Harijan vote at the last general
election.

At the gathering, Mrs Gandhi
garlanded a statue of Dr Am-
bedkar before speaking. The
audience of prominent Hari-
jans present asked her to
declare today a public holiday.

After noting that so far only
Mahatma Gandhi among the
country's founders had been so
honoured, she agreed. But she
added that India already had
"too many holidays" and she
proposed to consult other po-
litical leaders on the whole
subject of work-free days.

Some other countries, she
said, had only eight public holi-
days. India last year had 12
official holidays and more are
celebrated locally.

The Harijan community has
persistently sought ways to
have Dr Ambedkar honoured on
what they consider a fitting
scale.

Telephone service ed by Post Office

By

work. How do you decide
which subscribers should be
the lucky ones, other than by
asking those who believe they
need the super-service to pay a
supercharge for it?
But Mr Begin insisted, the
Post Office had not yet made up
its mind on the issue.

System X exchanges will be
built for the Post Office by the
three main United Kingdom
telecommunications companies,
the General Electric Company,
Plessey, and Standard Tele-
phones and Cables. All four
organizations have formed a
new company, British Telecom-
munications Systems, to market
System X overseas.

Two new designs for the
subscribers of Woodbridge were
demonstrated to the press
yesterday—the ability to dial a
long number quickly by giving
it a one-digit or two-digit code;
and the ability to be followed
around to other numbers when
one is out.

In both, the Post Office pro-
vides a recorded-voice guide to
the steps needed to negotiate
the new technology success-
fully. In the latter demonstra-
tion, inevitably, was a faulty
number dialled, the second
line so that the telephone
operator at the Post Office Re-
sponse Centre at Martlesham
could not hear the confident
voice of her boss at the press
conference trying to tell her
that this was a transferred-call
demonstration.

It worked at the second
attempt.

Smoother telephones future,
page 18

Mr Begin off to Washington in defiant mood

By

Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, has
left for Washington for talks with Presi-
dent Carter on Palestinian autonomy. At
the airport he reiterated his refusal to
compromise on Jewish settlements policy
in occupied Arab land. "Living in our
land, settling in this land, these are in-
alienable rights", he told reporters. He
also ruled out any discussion on east
Jerusalem, saying that "Jerusalem is the
capital of Israel, an indivisible city".
Page 8

BL strike spreads

The number on strike at BL plants in
protest at the imposition of a pay and
conditions package rose to 15,000 at nine
factories in the Midlands. Production of
the Range Rover, Land-Rover, Rover
saloons, TR7 convertible, Jaguar saloons
and the Sherpa vans was halted. BL's best
sell, the Mini, will also be affected.
Page 2

Hospital action 'futile'

A meeting of eight Northern Ireland
health unions in Belfast condemned the
unofficial strike and picketing by ancillary
workers at the Royal Victoria Hospital,
Belfast. An official of the National Union
of Public Employees said the strike,
supposedly against the Army security pre-
sence, was futile.
Page 2

Border power link

The British and Irish governments seem
prepared to join forces against the
Provisional IRA and restore a cross-border
powerlink which was blown up five years
ago.
Page 2

Watergate burglar breaks his silence

By

A plan to drug with LSD and discredit
Mr Daniel Ellsberg, the man who released
the so-called "Pentagon Papers", is out-
lined in excerpts from the autobiography
of Mr Gordon Liddy, one of the Watergate
burglars, who was jailed for five years.
Page 7

Freedom China's target

The Standing Committee of China's
Parliament has recommended a change in
the constitution to outlaw free speech,
press freedom and the display of dissident
wall posters. The main targets are
political wall posters, which have been
under increasing attack by the
authorities.
Page 9

Seminar in Moscow

Distinguished western scientists have
been conducting a seminar in a cramped
Moscow flat to keep Soviet Jewish
scientists abreast of latest developments
in their disciplines. The Russian scientists
have been refused emigration visas and
have lost work facilities.
Page 7

Kelly inquest

A pathologist said that his
preliminary report on the death of James
Kelly contained inaccuracies.
Page 4

Hardship warning

The Government's pro-
posed cuts in benefits will cause severe
hardship to strikers, old people and the
injured, welfare groups say.
Page 5

Brussels: Mr Roy Jenkins not to reprimand critics EEC colleague

Monrovia: Liberia's new military leader
promises a 'just society'.
Page 7

Telecommunications: A four-page Special Report on the industry and its future

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages
25, 26; Appointments, 12, 24, 25; Sale
rooms and Antiques, 12.

Leader, page 15

Letters: On allies' response to Carter plea,
from Mr Alan Lee Williams and others; on
Ulster, from Mr George C. Atfield and Mr
Dan Del-Rivo; on *Death of a Princess*, from
Sir Philip de Zulueta, and Mr C. R. Preston
Leading articles: West Africa; Teachers'
pay; Nuclear reactors

Obituaries, page 16

Mr Nicholas Phipps; Mr Robert Swan; Mr
W. J. White

Arts, page 13

John Russell Taylor finds comparisons
and contrasts in the work of Weegee and Robert
Frank at the Photographers' Gallery and the
ICA; Paul Griffiths on the start of an
imaginative new concert series at the
Maidment, Snape; Stanley Sadie on the LSO
and Callicott

Features, pages 9, 14

John Groser on the new Lord Chief Justice;
Bernard Levin on a civil way to vote;
Fashion by Prudence Glynn

Sport, pages 10, 11

Crick: C. Gifford withdraws from sponsorship
of one-day competition; Racing: Michael
Phillips previews first day of Craven meeting;
Skiing: Home hopes tumble in British Alpine
championships; Rugby League: Cup final
will set world record receipts

Business News, pages 17-23

Stock markets: Equities continued to move
upwards as gilts were in heavy demand. The
FT index closed 2.5 up at 438.2

Financial Editor: Glaxo's bitter medicine;
Grand Metropolitan moving in on Liggett

Business features: Sir Bryan Hopkin, a
former Chief Economic Adviser to the
Treasury, argues against the Government's
economic policies; Hugh Stephenson on a
deceptively dangerous model for public
sector disputes

Home News

European News

Overseas News

Appointments

Arts

Bridge

Business

Church

Court

Crossword

Diary

Engagements

Simpson

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HOME NEWS

BL package strike will halt Mini production line today

By Clifford Webb
Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Managing directors from all BL Cars subsidiaries met at Oxford yesterday to formulate the company's response to the official backing given by the Transport and General Workers' Union to "bush fire" strikes at BL plants.

The number on strike in protest at the imposition of a new pay and conditions package had risen to 13,500 last night and affected nine plants, all in the Midlands.

Production of the Range Rover, Land-Rover, Rover saloons, TR7 convertibles, Jaguar saloons and Sherpa vans was at a standstill. The latest to suffer from the strike were the Castle Bromwich body plant and the works at Acocks Green, Birmingham, which supplies engines to Rover.

The strike by 1,300 men at Castle Bromwich has cut supplies of Mini body panels to Longbridge. The latest to be affected by the strike was the Mini, BL's best selling car, which will be halted today with 800 men laid off.

Mr Ray Horrocks, managing director of BL Cars, took the chair at yesterday's meeting, which was called originally as a routine meeting of BL Cars' executive committee. However, the latest threat to the group's recovery hopes took precedence over all other business.

No statement was issued after the meeting, but it is understood that Mr Horrocks reported on informal talks during the weekend between Mr Mostyn (Moss) Evans, general secretary of the transport union, and Mr Pat Lowery, BL's senior industrial relations expert.

Neither side would confirm reports last night that attempts

were being made to set up a meeting between Mr Evans and BL chiefs. It is likely that a decision about such a meeting will have to wait until the return today of Sir Michael Edwards, BL's chairman, who has been on a five-day visit to South Africa.

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has instructed its 23,000 BL members to work normally and they are responding loyally in spite of the activities of transport union pickets at many plants.

Mr Terence Duffy, AUEW president, said yesterday: "It is a tragedy that Britain's only nationalized car company is again in conflict." His frequently expressed concern for BL's future in the face of industrial unrest contrasts sharply with the view of the transport union leader.

Mr Evans said yesterday: "I do not think Leyland will sink. People underestimate how successful the company is going to be. I am far more optimistic about the future than Sir Michael Edwards, and I believe that I am right."

Most of BL's 36 car plants are working normally, but it will not be long before some of them are affected by the shortage of components. Longbridge and Cowley have key roles to play in the group's crucial new car programme.

BL's sales rose from 15 per cent of the United Kingdom market in January to 23 per cent last month, but new models are needed urgently to rejuvenate the aging range of popular cars. Longbridge is on target to launch the £275m Mini Metro in October and Cowley has just started production of a new version of the Marina.

600 to lose jobs in Grain laggards' dispute

By Our Labour Staff

About 600 construction workers are set to lose their jobs this month in the first wave of redundancies caused by the six months old dispute involving 27 laggards at the Isle of Grain power station site in Kent.

Redundancy notices to the men run out on April 25 and the Central Electricity Generating Board made clear last night that even if the dispute over bonus payments is resolved before then nothing can prevent the men losing their jobs.

Although most of the laggards, members of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, are believed to have found alternative work, their job, that of insulating boilers and other equipment, has been "blacklisted" by the union.

The dispute threatens 1,600 jobs and the future of the £550m oil-fired power station under construction at the site.

Print employers to consider NGA dismissals

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

The general printing and provincial newspaper dispute may escalate this week after a meeting of employers to decide what retaliatory action to take against industrial sanctions being operated by the National Graphical Association (NGA).

The council of the British Printing Industries Federation and Newspaper Society representatives will discuss their next step, which could involve dismissal or suspension of NGA members in dispute, on Thursday.

In response to a claim for an £80-a-week minimum wage and a 37-hour week, both groups have offered a £75 minimum and a 37½ week by 1982.

Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the NGA, said last night that the union had drawn up contingency plans.

Government defiance over IRA power link

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

The British and Irish governments appear prepared to join forces against the Provisional IRA and restore a 275,000-volt cross-border electricity link blown up five years ago.

The issue is on the agenda for talks in Dublin today between Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Mr Brian Lenihan, the Irish Foreign Minister.

The interconnector lines which straddled the border near Crossmaglen, south Armagh, are badly needed by the Irish Republic, which is plagued by blackout threats because of an inadequate generating capability.

But this much needed cross-border facility is a target of the Provisionals, who have thwarted every attempt since 1975 to have it restored. They now say that any worker who attempts to restore the link will be shot.

Both the Northern Ireland and Irish electricity services say they could save thousands of pounds every day by selling each other electricity at appropriate times. In general, however, the republic stands to gain the greatest benefit because Ulster generates more electricity than it can use.

The other issues due for discussion between the ministers are economic co-operation and border security. The British Government has no undue complaint about the republic's actions against the Provisionals, particularly in the light of some spectacular gun and bomb finds just south of the border in recent months.

Indeed, there is a strong feeling in Stormont circles that the assault against the IRA by the Irish government has gained momentum since Mr Charles Haughey became Prime Minister in December.

That has served to reassure the British Government that Mr Haughey's hard line nationalist reputation may have been kindled for home consumption; in power he is seen as being more likely to fight terrorism than Mr Jack Lynch, his predecessor.

The last Dublin and Westminster top-level exchanges were between Mr Lynch and Mrs Margaret Thatcher in London in October, when the cross-border security arrangements were concluded in the wake of the murder of Lord Mountbatten of Burma, and the killing on the same day of 18 soldiers at Warren Point, on the south-eastern corner of the Ulster border.

British unease about the future of the pact, which included giving authority to British Army helicopters to cross the border without prior permission, when in hot pursuit, has not been justified, Mr Haughey says he proposes no changes in the agreement.

Talks on economic co-operation will include the prospects for EEC money to help the border area and to boost tourism, which has a clear cross-border aspect.

In the most general terms there will be discussion of the political situation. Mr Lenihan has mentioned to Irish journalists that he proposes to tell Mr Atkins that the constitutional guarantee to the Unionists of Northern Ireland should be ended.

But observers doubt that such an issue will get much of an airing. And there is certainly no prospect of Mr Atkins giving any detailed explanation of the Government's thoughts on how it might attempt to achieve political change in Northern Ireland; that is a matter for the House of Commons, which seems likely to receive a report next month.



Man and dog: Lord Hailsham of Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, with Mini, his Jack Russell terrier, at the House of Lords yesterday for the swearing-in of three judges and 54 Queen's Counsel.

Ulster unions close ranks to rebuke hospital strikers

From Our Own Correspondent
Belfast

The trade union movement in Northern Ireland yesterday closed ranks in opposition to the unofficial strike by 1,500 ancillary workers at the Royal Victoria Hospital, west Belfast.

The porters, cooks and cleaners were continuing to defy their union, the National Union of Public Employees, which condemned them for not providing emergency cover.

Despite acute difficulties, the 1,100-bed hospital was still managing to provide an almost normal service to patients. Breakfasts were cooked and served by nurses, and doctors could be seen with mops and brooms in the corridors.

NuPe is incensed at the involvement of politicians, who claim the strike is being manipulated by the Provisional IRA.

Mr John Coulthard, NuPe's Northern Ireland officer, criticized the politicians for exacerbating a highly charged situation.

Eight other health unions met in Belfast under the aegis of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and unanimously supported a weekend decision by NuPe's national executive in London to condemn the action.

As they met, the strike leaders sent a message that they would recommend a return if the union's health service group would set up an independent inquiry into the dispute and to establish who should negotiate for the workers in future.

The strikers insist that the inquiry should exclude the two full-time NuPe officers. The plea was rejected.

Mr Coulthard and his colleague have been repudiated by the strikers. He said last night: "What saddens me is the futility of the action. Our members must know that if they stayed out until Christmas it would not make a whit of difference to the Army presence."

The declared reason for the strike, which is also affecting sister hospitals, is the "excessive" security presence of the Army. There have been some ugly scenes in the streets of the hospital, and security measures have been stepped up. These include closed circuit television. The picket lines at the hospital were fairly peaceful yesterday, but there were two clashes with the Army.

The strikers were surrounded by pickets. The driver of one, a senior catering officer, was forced to turn away. But earlier a van carrying urgent food supplies was allowed through. So far emergency services have not been interrupted.

State foray in leisure field brings protest

From Ronald Faux
Oban

A £500,000 investment by the Crown Estate Commissioners in 44 log cabins at Dalavich, Argyll, has upset the Association of Scotland's Self Caterers.

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For a private developer each cabin could cost £20,000. When loan interest had been repaid and all services covered, only a thin margin of profit remained if bookings were slack.

The Crown Estate Commissioners were "very surprised" that their cabins were looked upon as unfair competition. The £500,000 was not tax revenue but Crown Estate liquid capital seeking a sensible investment.

Pay increases averaging 18% recommended for teachers

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Salary increases ranging from 17 to 25 per cent for 600,000 school and further education teachers in England, Wales and Scotland are recommended in the seventh report of the standing commission on pay comparability, whose chairman is Professor Hugh Clegg.

The increases, which average 18.2 per cent, are based on the April 1979, salary rates and do not include the 5 per cent paid to teachers from April 1, 1979, in anticipation of the Clegg report. The teachers had asked for 37.7 per cent on March 1979, salaries. The recommendation represents a 29.2 per cent increase on those salaries.

The award, if paid in full, would add £755m to the total bill of £4,148m for teachers' salaries, pensions and national insurance contributions.

However, the Clegg report only makes recommendations. It will be for the teachers and employers to decide what to do with those recommendations in the Burnham Committee, the national negotiating body on teachers' pay.

The report recommends that, as agreed by both sides, the award be paid in two equal instalments: half backdated to January 1, 1980, and incorporating the 7.5 per cent interim increase, and the rest from September 1, 1980.

That would mean for example, that most teachers and lecturers at the bottom of the salary scales, for whom a 17 per cent increase is proposed, would get an extra 1 per cent immediately, backdated to January, and a further 8.5 per cent from September.

Head teachers and principals at the top of the salary scales, for whom a 25 per cent increase is proposed, would get an extra 5 per cent immediately and 12.5 per cent from September.

The Clegg commission was asked by the Government in July to undertake a pay comparability study for teachers after pay talks between the employers and the teachers' unions collapsed.

The report says little about conditions of service. The key paragraph, over which there will be much debate both inside and outside the Burnham Committee, says: "Throughout our assessment of the work of teachers we have taken into account the wide range of extra-curricular activities which are part of the professional obligation of teachers to pupils, parents and schools". It adds that a substantial part of their work has to be done outside the classroom and overlaps into holidays.

The commission broadly

accepts the findings of the National Foundation for Educational Research that "if the average working week by teachers is 46 hours, the lowest recommended pay for a teacher with 38 hours a week and secondary teachers 41 hours, thus any advantage over hours of work and holidays is 'less than commonly supposed'."

It says: "In our opinion no adjustment is warranted in the salaries we have proposed for teachers on account of hours of work and holidays."

The report says that while there was a surplus of teachers, it was comparatively small when judged by the percentage of unemployed.

Entry to teacher training was satisfactory but was not sufficient to correct shortages in certain important subjects. The impending change to an all-graduate profession was likely to have a substantial effect on the numbers accepted for training.

The commission rules out special salary scales for those subjects but suggests greater pay flexibility so that, for example, a mathematics teacher might be appointed immediately to a relatively highly paid scale 3 post.

The commission decided to compare the salaries of graduates entering industry and those entering teaching over the first three years of their careers. Teachers were found to be earning about 17 per cent less than their peers in industry and commerce. "In our view these disparities cannot be justified", it said.

Turning to a comparison within the teaching profession,

Teachers' salary scales: proposals and comparisons with 1979 rates. Primary and secondary—England and Wales.

Scale	Rate of April 1979	Proposed rate
Qualified teacher		
Scale 1	Min 3,251	£3,790
Good honours graduate	Max 4,083	£4,623
Scale 2	Min 4,083	£4,623
Senior teacher	Max 4,722	£5,267
Head teacher		
Group 4	Min 4,740	£5,282
Group 10	Max 7,491	£8,590
Head teacher		
Group 10	Min 6,537	£7,461
Group 14	Max 9,537	£11,094
Lecturer	Min 3,480	£4,071
Senior lecturer	Min 4,597	£5,267
Head of department	Min 6,435	£7,393
Vice-principal	Min 11,232	£12,710
Principal	Min 14,155	£16,166
1	Min 8,409	£9,598
2	Min 10,900	£12,518
12	Max 18,995	£21,243

Scots Bill 'greatest threat to civil liberties'

From Our Correspondent
Dunfermline

The Campaign to Stop the Scottish Criminal Justice Bill yesterday accused the Government of using uninformed English Conservative MPs to force the Bill through Parliament. The campaign has the support of Scottish law professors, the Liberal Party and the Scottish TUC.

Mr Derek Ogg, their spokesman, who is a Dunfermline solicitor and prominent young Conservative, said: "We are concerned that the Government is smearing our campaign as ill informed. We are also concerned about the political involvement of the police."

"Police Federation officers appear on television supporting the Bill and an English chief constable lays the blame for what happened recently at Scarborough on civil liberty groups."

"Our view is that police and community relationships will deteriorate to an unprecedented level of fear and suspicion if the Bill goes through. In very circumstances the Bill is designed to prevent."

"Its detention provisions are contrary to the EEC Convention on Human Rights and the public in England and Wales should be concerned that this Bill will be a dry run for a new English criminal procedure."

"The Government's majority will be made up of south of England Tory MPs who have no training or experience in Scottish criminal procedure. The Bill is the single greatest threat to civil liberties in Scotland."

Bail for on Tory arson case

Two men a Conservative in Newport, mandated under seven days bates yesterday

Martin Two Edward Stret Michael John of Monmouth both unemployed charge of arson stationery fire on April 11

Mr Tuohy attempting to bring in Caxton contents by £9 and 11.

Transport

More than 100,000 visitors to the Museum in London, since March 28.

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Move to halve motor cycle and lorry noise levels

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

Moves to halve the noise level of lorries and large motor cycles within 10 years were set in motion yesterday by Mr Norman Fowler, Minister of Transport.

In a public consultation document views are sought from interested parties such as the motor industry on a new maximum vehicle noise level of 80 decibels, the level at which, according to previous surveys, most people regard a vehicle as constituting a noise nuisance.

That is eight decibels below the "quiet" limits for lorries and motor cycles, the two main noise culprits, already due to come into force in 1983 under an EEC directive issued in 1978.

A reduction from 88 to 80 decibels would almost halve the noise level as perceived by the human ear, and bring it down to that of the new "quiet" cars due to start coming on the market this year under the same EEC directive.

The ministry paper says that traffic is the main source of noise in the community, and that despite some limitations already introduced it has increased an awful lot in the last 20 years. It says that the noise level is now a major factor in the choice of where to live, and that it is a major cause of annoyance and health problems.

Some relief is being gained from a variety of measures such as bypass roads round towns and villages, traffic management schemes, and land-use measures to exclude heavy traffic from sensitive areas. But while such measures can mitigate noise, they are no substitute for control at source, by ensuring that vehicles are designed and manufactured to emit no more than an acceptable level.

The Government's "quiet heavy vehicle" research project has established the technical feasibility of reducing noise to the desired levels, but

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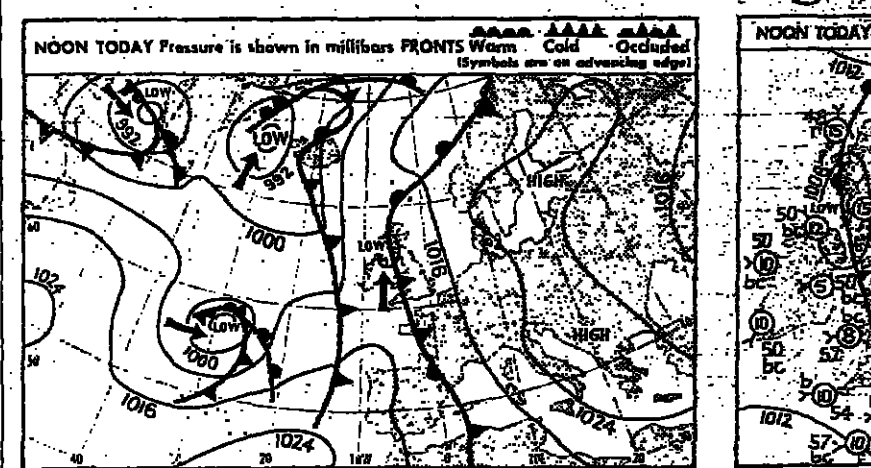
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Weather forecast and recordings



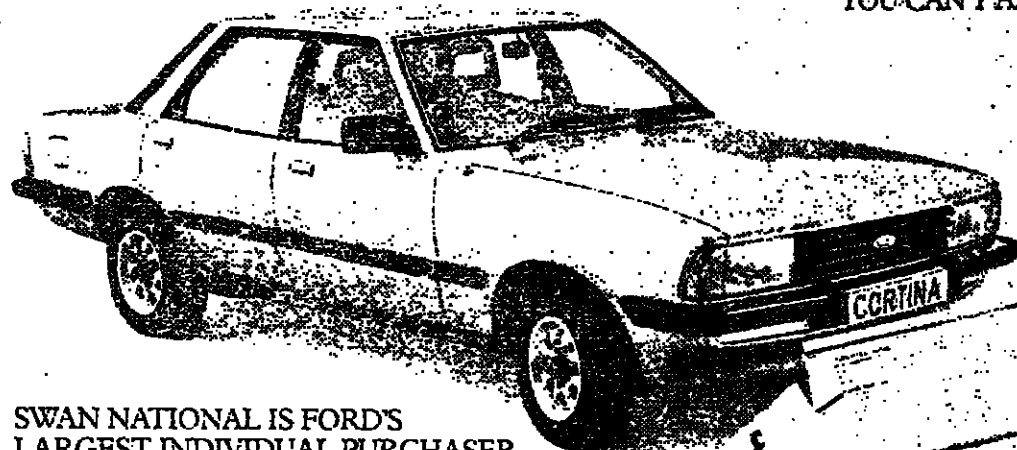
Region	Today	Tomorrow	Day after	
London	Sun rises: 6.15 am Moon rises: 6.41 am Sun sets: 7.58 pm Moon sets: 8.26 pm New moon: 4.46 am Lighting up: 8.28 pm to 5.33 am High water: London 7.3m Low water: London 7.6m Arauc mouth: 8.22 am, 14.2m; 8.44 pm, 14.1m Dover: 8.17 am, 6.8m Hull: 7.78 am, 7.7m; 18.18 pm, 7.9m Liverpool: 12.31 pm, 10.2m 1ft=0.3048m 1m=3.2808ft	District: Dry, rather cloudy at times; at noon, bright or sunny intervals; wind SE, light; max temp 16°C (61°F). SW England: SW Wales, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, N Ireland: Rather cloudy, outbreaks of rain slowly dying out; wind variable, light to moderate; max temp 12°C (54°F). Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Ayrshire: Mostly Fair: Dry, with some intervals of light rain; moderate; max temp 17°C (63°F), but cooler near coasts. Glasgow, central Highlands, NE Scotland: Mostly Fair: Dry, rather cloudy; wind SE, moderate; max temp 10°C (50°F) to 12°C (54°F). Ireland: Cloudy outbreaks of rain; wind variable, becoming W, moderate; max temp 10°C (50°F).	Monday: Partly cloudy, with some rain; wind SE, light; max temp 16°C (61°F). Tuesday: Dry, in many areas with some sunny intervals; temp near or rather above normal. Wednesday: Partly cloudy; sea: Strait of Dover: Wind SE, moderate or fresh; sea: slight or	English Channel: moderate or rather slight or fresh; sea: slight or fresh; wind: variable slight. Yesterday: London: Temp 17°C (63°F) to 11°C (52°F); rain 49 per cent; 7 pm, 10.6m; 6.4m; 10.1m; 1.000 millibars. Overcast, sunless; rain 100 per cent; 7 pm, 10.6m; 6.4m; 10.1m; 1.000 millibars.

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CORTINA 1.6 L or similar	PER DAY+PER MILE	£9.25+9½p	£10.00+10p	£9.90+11p	£10.00+10p
	WEEKLY UNLIMITED:	£104.00	£120.00	£120.00	£115.50
CORTINA ESTATE 1.6 L or similar	PER DAY+PER MILE	£12.00+12p	£13.00+13p	£12.90+14p	£13.00+12p
	WEEKLY UNLIMITED:	£129.75	£150.00	£150.00	£140.00

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Whitehall brief: Inner workings remain incomprehensible mystery When an MP ranks behind a foreign visitor

By Peter Hennessey

To most MPs without ministerial experience the inner workings of Whitehall remain an incomprehensible mystery. Collectively in Parliament MPs may be sovereign, but when it comes to securing a departmental briefing on a matter of policy from a civil servant, they rank some distance behind a foreign visitor or a journalist.

Elected MPs, with a constitutional duty to scrutinize the executive, usually find their way blocked to routine sessions regularly to, of, American PhD students or lobby correspondents: blocked by what a Civil Service Department spokesman described as the unwritten "code of etiquette" governing the way an MP approaches a department for information.

Only on the most secretive bureau would the irony of such a position be lost.

Last week the Royal Institute of Public Administration ran a two-day experimental seminar at its London headquarters in Birdcage Walk, Westminster, on the workings of Whitehall. It was attended by a dozen backbenchers from the two major parties. Funded by the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, part of the Sainsbury's retail chain, it sought to remedy some of the deficiencies caused by that unwritten code.



Mr Bruce George: "Appalled at conspiracy of silence."

The collection of former Whitehall insiders assembled to conduct MPs on their "Cook's tour" as one described it, were left in no doubt about the rage endured by backbenchers when insulted by meaningless replies to letters sent to ministers. Mr Nigel Spearing, Labour MP for Newham, South, spoke for many when he said:

"Once I had a long correspondence with a junior minister on the subject of inland waterways. I knew I was not writing to him but to his officials. They replied



Mr Nigel Spearing: "I felt like shouting."

in long, convoluted sentences and refused to take the issue. I felt like shaking them by the neck and shouting at them if I ever saw them which, of course, I did not."

For their part, the former insiders left the MPs with few illusions about the contempt much of Whitehall feels for most backbenchers.

The sins of what one called "the executive mentality" were listed at length—its concentration on the avoidance of embarrassment, its cynicism about change, its pessimism—and set

alongside the virtues of the senior Civil Service.

In one of three departmental case studies on the foreign and defence ministries (the others dealt with the Treasury and the Department of the Environment), the MPs learnt more about the way Whitehall has been preparing over the past eight years for a third generation nuclear deterrent to replace the Polaris Submarine Squadron in the 1990s than ministers have yet been prepared to tell Parliament.

After listening to Professor Peter Naylor, of the Royal Naval Staff College, Greenwich, and Mr William Wallace, of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, on the subject, Mr Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall, South, and a member of the Commons Select Committee on Defence, commented that the recent White Paper on defence offered exactly one sentence on Polaris replacement.

The depressing analysis of the crumbs and evasions offered to backbenchers by departments, however, did not engender a sense of defeatism. The MPs were told how seriously the new system of select committees is being taken in Whitehall, how a committee with a good chairman and a clear sense of direction, can exert a powerful influence.

Exploitation of Celts by TV attacked

By Neil Munro
of The Times Educational Supplement

The alleged exploitation of Celtic communities by national broadcasting services was strongly attacked yesterday by Mr Muiris MacConchall, Controller of RTE-1 (Television), the Irish state broadcasting organization.

He told the first International Festival of Celtic Film at South Uist, Western Isles, that those living in the Western Isles, Anglesey, Brittany or West Kerry had to accept both the dominance of the life styles of those living at the centre and the central view of the lives of those living on the periphery.

"Slow Celtic tragic music over an enveloping mist, while an ancient and grizzly farmer wearing old Wellingtons trudges his weary way over a sodden landscape may be very amusing and, indeed, moving in the drawingrooms of west London, but it is hardly relevant to those who have to live in the areas portrayed," he said.

Films such as *Ran's Daughter* and *Whisky Galore* were made chiefly in Ireland and in Barra because they were able to use cheap local labour.

Making programmes for people belonging to peripheral cultures did not mean an abundance of dancing, ancient crafts and folk music. They should also involve drama, current affairs, news, urban sociology and education.

The festival, which will run until the end of the week throughout the Western Isles, has attracted film makers and broadcasters from France, Wales, Ireland and Scotland.

A power failure at Leeds City railway station yesterday badly disrupted services.

Severe hardship expected to result from benefit cuts

By Francis Gibb

Strikers, old and injured people and the unemployed will suffer severe hardship because of the cuts in benefits outlined in the Government's social security Bill, welfare pressure groups said yesterday.

In a briefing paper to MPs, the Child Poverty Action Group says the Bill, due for its second reading today, represents "a further erosion of the basic principles of the welfare state".

About 1,750,000 claimants will suffer because benefits for unemployment, sickness and maternity are being increased by 5 per cent less than the rate of inflation this year, it says.

Unemployment benefit for a couple will be cut by £1.50 a week in real terms and invalidity benefit, paid to the chronically sick, by at least £1.85.

If the Government does the same thing next year, as the Bill allows, unemployment

benefit for a couple will have been cut by a total of £3.15 a week and invalidity benefit by £3.95 by 1982.

The injury benefit, paid for six months after an industrial injury, is to suffer an even bigger cut than other benefits, the CPAG says. It will rise by only 10.1 per cent, which, after inflation, means a weekly loss of £1.95 a couple.

Those with children will have greater losses. Unemployment benefit for a couple with two

children will be cut in real terms by £2.80 a week and invalidity pensions by £3.35 a week. "The larger the family, the bigger the cut."

Age Concern, another pressure group, says old people will suffer because of the "earnings rule".

The CPAG dismisses the Government's argument that the cuts are aimed at increasing work incentives. "Only a tiny minority are better off out of work", it says.

hospital care for ten least in need'

Osman

Up-to-date medical skills available in m's purpose-built hospital were being men from better needed them, in a report yesterday.

suggests that poorer, inner city, who were went to much wided maternity were not as well detect potential

tem was needed l to ensure that were used by ad most need of g to the report, party of Central community Health

l that in inner sparkbrook, the tally rate (still leaths within a was 80 per cent e national level.

ie woman in 28 had her baby at et in two better- such as Har- inton, which had eath rate better tional average, four women had ospital.

concluded: "The able are clearly er the needs of wards with the atal mortality

consequence is tal in its teach- ing to train doc- ith the real chel- oblems of mod- the so-called 'at

The situation had come about, it was thought, because it was the policy of consultants at the hospital to book patients at the earliest possible date.

"Understandably they do not wish to have empty beds, and therefore those who notify their pregnancy at the earliest possible date are far more likely to gain access to the hospital."

"It is likely that the groups most at risk are the same people as those who notify their pregnancies latest; the groups least at risk are those who notify earliest."

An alternative interpretation might be that the hospital was successful at reducing the risk in those electoral wards for which it provided a substantial service. Thus the relatively low perinatal mortality rate in some wards could be due to the hospital, and not to social and environmental factors.

If that was the case it reflected an even greater need to make the hospital services available to high-risk wards. The only way that could ethically be achieved, if such an interpretation held, was by increasing the service.

"We are happy to acknowledge that Birmingham maternity hospital is an excellent hospital. Our purpose is to ensure that as many women as possible who need its services gain access to them, and that its high standards are maintained and reinforced."

The proposals made were in a spirit of realism and urgency. "There is a heavy burden of responsibility on managers and clinicians alike to make sure that some of our high perinatal mortality rates, which are a disgrace to a developed society, are reduced

Doubt over Glasgow Tube restart

From Our Correspondent
Glasgow

Mr Joseph Coyle, industrial relations director of the Greater Glasgow Passenger Transport Executive, said yesterday that he expected that the city's newly modernized underground system would open tomorrow as planned.

His statement came after 40 drivers had said they were unhappy over a pay deal and Mr John Ferguson, convenor of shop stewards, had declared: "A question must hang over the reopening."

The cost of the modernization has risen from £10.6m in 1974 to £53.3m. It has been reckoned that unless it can attract 15 million passengers a year it will run at a loss of £2m a year.

The dispute has arisen because under a pay deal drivers of one-man operated buses in the Glasgow authority are to be paid £85 basic and a £10.63 shift allowance, compared with £79, with £9.88 shift allowance, for underground drivers, both for a 40-hour week.

Mr Coyle said: "I have concluded my negotiations with officials and shop stewards of the Transport and General Workers' Union and they have accepted the offer on behalf of 2,000 bus drivers, mainly of one-man operated buses, and 40 underground drivers."

"While most of the traffic staff at the garages appear to be satisfied, they were not 100 per cent happy, but who ever is, in pay negotiations?"

"It appears that some underground drivers think it is not enough, but I have reported on the agreement with the union to my executive and to the Strathclyde region's highways and transportation committee."

or musician who would not work

respondent

Roberts, former of the recording's Playboys, has three weeks in d during the past a nearly £3,500 t Mr John Hen- field stipendiary s told yesterday.

sed employment. dd work only as and consistently end resettlement ert was told.

aged 35, unem- iddlewood Road, : jailed for six

months after pleading guilty to persistently neglecting to maintain himself, his wife and two children.

Mr Basil Corcos, for the prosecution, said that in 1975 Mr Roberts was asked to take a refresher course in instrument making but wanted work as a musician, as it was well paid. He promised to attend another course but the day before it began said he was a witness in an attempted murder case and was then going on holiday.

He refused to go on further courses and failed to go to seven jobs to which he was sent by the job centre.

"After being given a warning he said he wanted work in the music field, where he could earn £100 a week and maintain his family's standard of living. Though a tribunal order stopped his supplementary benefit last June he claimed under another section for his family and it was restored."

Mr Corcos added: "In the last two years he has been paid £3,441.24 in benefit. No compensation is claimed, as he has been properly paid this benefit, albeit reluctantly."

The defence said Mr Roberts had now made efforts to get a job.

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vere asked to in- Mrs Jean Pyke, vant Road, Hay- ampshire, after ewspaper photo- liced said yester- of Constable (Mr r) has referred t Captain Mark 'ning an incident t March 9 last to Public Prosecu- ills has denied a the horse.

Minister gives aid pledge to Gwynedd councillors

The Government will reconsider its decision to deprive parts of Gwynedd of special development area status, Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, announced during a visit yesterday.

After a two-hour meeting at Caernarvon with councillors and officials from the county and district councils he admitted there were reasons for "worry and anxiety". However, Mr Edwards said there were 800 new jobs in the pipeline and road-building projects should provide another 300.

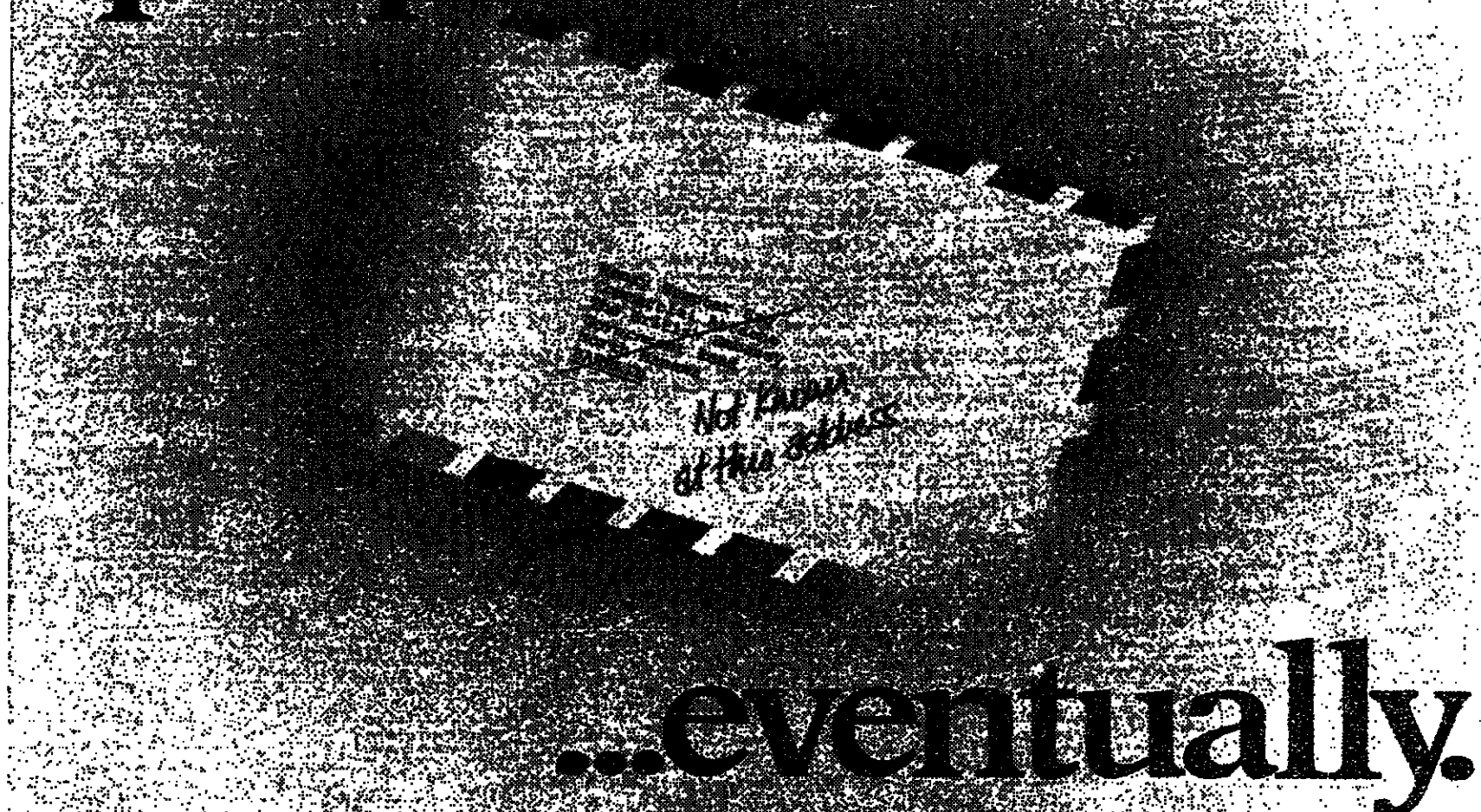
There are fears of 19 per cent unemployment by the end of the year in the Caernarvon area because hundreds of men are being laid off as the Dinor-

wic hydroelectric scheme nears completion in Snowdonia. Moreover the situation at two factories which are Caernarvon's main employers is worsening. One is to transfer production to Lancashire next month with the loss of 320 jobs, and the other has given warning of impending redundancies.

After the meeting Mr Ioan Bowen Rees, the Gwynedd County Council chief executive, said they had tried to impress on Mr Edwards that the grim prospect facing the area was comparable to that existing at Shotton Cwmyd.

Gwynedd, however, did not have good communications and other advantages enjoyed by Deeside.

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EUROPE

kins snub for staff ns on EEC's discipline' report

By Hornsby
The President of the European Commission sent a curt letter to the Commission of the Communities that he has no disavowing or a senior colleague of the EEC bureaucracy. The letter is a memorandum of understanding that the Commission should be amended to bring them "in line with the possibility of strike action by the staff."
Sir Roy continues: "This is a state of affairs which in any organization paid for by the Community taxpayer strikes me as quite indefensible. Clearly as in any branch of the public administration sacking people is something which should only be considered with due care and in the last resort. But the fact that it is ruled out altogether can only encourage those of evil intent and persuasion has its limits."
Sir Roy recommends that the employment statutes of the Commission should be amended to bring them "in line with the possibility of strike action by the staff."
In the middle and junior grades in particular they are paid two to three times what they would get outside. If they wish to go to work for the support of an indefensible degree of feather-bedding then it would not be difficult to dispense with their services and at going rates as good or better from outside.

can Parliament told were overspent

overspending had to be met out of the 1979 total and did not affect the 1979 rule for January and February.
He accepted that the Commission underspent the total, but the Council of Ministers with parliamentary agreement of President Carrer's 100m units of account (about £60m).
Mr Scott Hopkins and the Democratic group last night suddenly jettisoned the full dress debate they had prepared for Wednesday, on the EEC triangle of power between Council, Parliament and Commission, with the report of the "three wise men" as the starting point.
Instead the group has urgently asked to substitute a debate on EEC action in support of President Carrer's 100m statement on Iran and the American hostages. There is strong feeling within the group that the Nine should give President Carrer the clearest practical and moral support.

radio ter peaks

FR3 at Point Adeloupe was light, responsibility was limited by the use of Liberation phone call to tion.
The fire was statements of the Minister French overseas territories, did a four-day
low broadcast said the popu-rench Antilles increasingly closer links between the com-ment groups and the Cuban
ed having ever was interfering f France, but stillais "these are so far metropolitan l their liberty was up to the how them that of the threats ed to face up

Bombs explode outside land reform centre

Evora, April 14.—Two small bombs exploded outside the Portuguese Government's agrarian reform centre in Evora, the capital of the agricultural province of Alentejo, early today only hours after tens of thousands of Communists attended a rally against the return of seized land to private owners.
The police said the bombs went off with a 10-minute interval at about 5 am, causing "a little" damage to the centre. No one was injured.
Senhor Alvaro Cunhal, the Communist Party leader, told a cheering crowd that leftist farm workers could reoccupy "in less than 24 hours" the land handed back by the Government to landlords.
Senhor Cunhal, however, denounced extreme leftist elements who have called for an "armed struggle" in Alentejo against the reform.
An agrarian reform official speculated that opponents of the Government's programme had exploded the bombs to "frighten and intimidate" officials responsible for taking land from the collective farms and returning it.

Dr Sa Carneiro in Schmidt talks

Bonn, April 14.—Dr Francisco Sa Carneiro, the Portuguese Prime Minister, met Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, and other West German leaders for talks that centred on Portugal's entry into the EEC.
Details of the discussions were not announced. Dr Sa Carneiro also met President Karl Carstens and Dr Helmut Kohl, the Christian Democratic Union leader. The talks with Herr Kohl were "friendly and cordial" and dealt with deepening ties among Christian democratic parties. A CDU spokesman said.—AP.

tar frontier to stay until June

sion yesterday was to assure the Gibraltarians leaders, who were on their way to a meeting of the European Assembly in Strasbourg, that the British position remains as it always has been, that no changes in the sovereignty of Gibraltar would be made without the approval of the people concerned.
In particular, it is understood that the Gibraltarians will be closely associated with any future talks about the colony.
Lord Carrington, paying tribute to Señor Oreja's statesmanship and good will in his statement yesterday, said the decision to reopen the border with Gibraltar was another milestone for democratic Spain, and was a significant contribution to the relationship between Spain and Britain.

OVERSEAS

Just society promised by Liberia's new leader

Liberia's new ruler, Army Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, said yesterday his People's Redemption Council which took power in a coup on Saturday, was committed to building a society based on justice and human dignity.
In a 14-minute broadcast to the Liberian people, monitored in Britain by the BBC, Sergeant Doe said the council had toppled the previous Government of President William Tolbert because it was corrupt.
"We know that we cannot do everything for the people at all times, but the people expect the Government to do its best for them," he said in his speech broadcast by Radio Elwa, a Liberian missionary station.
Sergeant Doe was installed as head of state after the coup, in which Tolbert was assassinated. Although the new Government has made preparations to put members of President Tolbert's administration on trial, it has reappointed three members of the Tolbert Government.
Sergeant Doe told a press conference that all Cabinet Ministers in the previous administration not associated with corruption would be considered for participation in the new Government, Radio Elwa reported.

The Redemption Council's aim was to heal the Government rather than overthrow it, Sergeant Doe said. The re-appointed ministers were those against whom there was insufficient evidence to justify a trial, Radio Elwa said.
Trials of other former officials were due to have begun late yesterday before a six-man tribunal. Charges were said to have included high treason, rampant corruption of public office and gross violation of civil and human rights.
Radio Elwa reported that Mr E. Reginald Townsend, chairman of Liberia's True Whig Party, the dominant political force in the country before Saturday's coup, was among the officials arrested, but it gave no other names.
United States: The United States and several other nations asked the new Liberian Government yesterday to delay the trials of officials serving President Tolbert.
Joyful Liberians packed the streets surrounding the main barracks yesterday as the officials were escorted inside to face a military tribunal. Soldiers had difficulty controlling the crowds as the accused, some of whom had been arrested only shortly before the coup, were manhandled into the barracks.
The new Government has assured the United States it wants good relations and will live up to existing agreements. State Department officials in Washington said yesterday.—Agence France-Press, UPI and AP.

Leading article, page 15
Flag still flies, page 18

Gordon Liddy breaks his silence A Watergate burglar prepared to kill

From David Cross Washington, April 14
Mr Gordon Liddy, the most flamboyant of the Watergate burglars, has at last broken his silence to give the world his version of the events surrounding the scandal which finally toppled President Nixon.
In his autobiography entitled *Will*, excerpts of which were published in *Time* magazine today, he emerges as a ruthless, unrepentant former agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who will do anything he can, including assassination, to stop those he considers to be the enemies of the United States.
Because of his long-standing refusal to discuss his role in the burglary of the Democratic National Committee offices in the Watergate hotel in Washington he was sent to prison for 20 years — a longer term than any of his co-conspirators — although he served less than a quarter of his sentence. For his silence he earned the nickname of "The Sphinx."
In a preface to his book, he explains that he has decided to speak now partly because the statute of limitations on Watergate has expired and his story can, therefore, no longer cause legal problems for his former colleagues. He also claims he owes a debt to history. "One small point he overlooks is that he still has to pay off part of \$40,000 (£19,000) fine and about \$300,000 in legal fees." After tracing his early childhood, which seems to have been characterized first by fear and shame and then by admiration for Adolf Hitler and a determination to become a "strong, fearless man," Mr Liddy joined the FBI in 1957. His two passions as a federal law enforcement officer were firearms and "defensive tactics." He writes: "I learnt how to take a gun away from a man and to tear off his trigger finger into the bargain. I learnt to kill a man with no more than a pencil—to maim, to blind."
Recruited to the White House in June, 1971, he was assigned to a secret group which was to become known as the "Plumbers." Their role was to secure the reelection of President Nixon at any cost.
One of his first tasks was to discredit Mr Daniel Ellsberg, whose release of the so-called "Pentagon Papers," a secret study of American involvement in Vietnam, had infuriated Mr Nixon. Mr Liddy says that he and Mr Howard Hunt, another Watergate burglar, conceived a plan to lace Mr Ellsberg's soup with the drug LSD at an official fund-raising dinner in Washington.
The idea was to try to "befuddle" Mr Ellsberg to public and "make him appear as a near burn-out drug case." The plan was finally approved by Mr Charles Colson, special counsel to President Nixon, but the decision came too late for the plan to be put into action, Mr Liddy says.
A few months later, Mr Liddy and Mr Hunt were working on a new plan, this time to discredit Mr Jack Anderson, the syndicated newspaper columnist, who, the White House claimed, had compromised an important American intelligence official working abroad. Mr Liddy was told that the intelligence agent's life had been endangered by Mr Anderson's revelations.
"I took the position," Mr Liddy writes, "that in a hypothetical case in which the target (Mr Anderson) had been the direct cause of the identification and execution of one of our agents abroad, halfway measures were not appropriate. I urged as the logical and just solution that the target be killed, quickly."
Mr Liddy says that his suggestion was approved immediately and that he offered to kill Mr Anderson himself and make the death look like a Washington street crime. However, the plan was later dropped.
After describing in great detail the break-in at the Watergate hotel, Mr Liddy explains how the White House cover-up operation was set in motion. During a meeting with Mr John Dean, legal counsel to President Nixon, Mr Liddy explains how he agreed to take the blame for the burglary.
According to Mr Liddy, Mr Dean replied after some stammering: "I don't think we've gotten there yet, Gordon." Needless to say Mr Liddy's offer was never taken up.
Later when he was in jail, Mr Liddy says he tentatively arranged for his fellow conspirator Mr Hunt to be assassinated when it seemed that the latter was about to cooperate with the Watergate prosecutors. He explains that he was waiting for orders from the White House which never came.



Former guerrillas are whipped into honour-guard smartness by the tongue of sergeant-major Noble of the Irish Guards in readiness for Zimbabwe's independence celebrations.

Western scientists take part in unofficial Moscow seminar

From Michael Binyon Moscow, April 14
In a cramped two-room flat in a drab Moscow housing estate some 50 scientists, including top names in America and Western Europe, have spent the past two days in tentative scientific discussion while the KGB (the Soviet secret police) have kept watch from afar.
The seminar, unofficial, unauthorized and unwelcome to the Soviet authorities, is an attempt by leading Soviet Jewish scientists who have been refused emigration visas but have lost their jobs, to keep abreast of the latest developments in their disciplines.
The three-day meeting, which ends tomorrow, is being held in the home of Mr Viktor Brailovsky, a cyberneticist associated with the underground *Samizdat* journal, *Jews in the USSR*. On Thursday plainclothes KGB police broke down the door of his flat, arrested Mr Brailovsky and interrogated him for five hours.
He was warned against allowing the seminar to take place and then released. But since then the authorities have made no attempt to stop the proceedings.
The foreign participants, mainly Jewish, come from Britain, France, Mexico, Norway and the United States. Most have come here on tourist visas, but a number from Scandinavia openly stated on their application forms that they were going to attend the seminar and were still allowed in.
The seminar is the fourth such attempt by Soviet *Refuseniks* to keep up their scientific contacts and have their work evaluated by colleagues from overseas. The first, in 1974, was broken up by the KGB. The other two have been allowed to go ahead, the last being in December, 1978.
Among the papers presented this time was one from Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident Academician now exiled in Gorky, and one from Dr Yuri Orlov, a physicist who founded the Helsinki human rights monitoring group in the Soviet Union and was sentenced to prison and exile in 1978. In their absence, their papers were presented by colleagues.
Mr Brailovsky said he did not know why the KGB released him and allowed the seminar to take place. But, he added, "It is a great spiritual help to us. We have not only the words but the physical support of the international scientific community."
He said that all the Soviet contributions—presented in English—were purely theoretical, as no scientist had been able to do any laboratory work since losing his job. "Our maximum facility is the pocket calculator," he added.
"The international seminar of collective phenomena" as the meeting is entitled to know, has won widespread support from scientific bodies, especially in America, and has an impressive list of Nobel prize-winners among its sponsors. There are plans to publish the proceedings and in about two months the papers from the last seminar will be on sale.
Dr Joel Lebowitz, a past president of the New York Academy of Sciences, who has attended the last three seminars, said the Soviet work presented was of a high quality considering the constraints placed on the scientists. The only limitation was the result of a lack of daily contact with new developments and other scientists, so they had to confine their work to the field in which they had already been working before applying to emigrate.
Czechs accused: Dr Anthony Kenny, the Master of Balliol College, Oxford, accused the Czechoslovak authorities of trying to smash the Oxford-Prague connection. He added that British philosophers would continue to visit Czechoslovakia to lecture students and exchange views.
Dr Kenny and his wife, Nancy, were arrested and expelled from Czechoslovakia at the weekend.
The Foreign Office is demanding an explanation why Dr Kenny was arrested while he was delivering a philosophy lecture to a group of students in the Prague flat of Dr Julius Tomin, the Czech philosopher.
The Foreign Office believes that Czechoslovakia has broken the terms of the Helsinki agreement, which provides for free exchanges of ideas and people.

Call to ease reporting on defence

From Our Correspondent Cape Town, April 14
A commission of inquiry today recommended some easing of the legal restrictions on the right of the South African press to report on defence matters. But at the same time a tightening-up was proposed in other areas and in reporting on police anti-terrorist activities.
Among the proposals of the Steyn Commission, under the chairmanship of Mr Justice M. T. Steyn, were the following:
Legislation should be enacted aiming at monitoring all propaganda and information activities undertaken on behalf of foreign principals; foreign journalists working in the Republic should be registered; a clear communication policy and plan should be formulated as an aspect of the national strategy.
It was also proposed that the Police Act should be amended to prohibit unlawful disclosure of information about combating terrorism, and that the restrictive clause of the Defence Act, which is regarded as onerous in the extreme by the South African press, should be amended to enable the press to fulfil its "watchdog" function, without compromising the safety of the Defence Force.
The report said the bureaucracy should depend on co-operation with the press rather than restrictive legislation to control sensitive security information.

Cuban group plans 'Dunkirk' rescue

By Our Foreign Staff
A Cuban émigré group in Miami yesterday announced plans to send an armada of small craft to Cuba to pick up refugees and bring them relief supplies.
Mr Benny Alvarez, the group's spokesman, said they intended to assemble between 100 and 150 boats at Key West, Florida, the nearest point to Cuba. "There will be no weapons and there will be a white flag on every boat," he added.
The expedition was highly dangerous and it could complicate the work of international relief measures for Cuba's would-be exiles, according to the United States Coast Guard.
About 3,000 of the Cubans packing the Peruvian Embassy grounds in Havana have now left the compound and returned to their homes to await the completion of paperwork, the official Cuban news agency, Prensa Latina reported.
It did not say how many people were still in the embassy compound, but Peruvian officials said on Friday they had registered 10,000. The refugees have been in the compound for more than a week.
The United States may admit as many as 4,000 of the would-be emigrants, according to sources at the United States interest section of the Swiss Embassy in Havana.
The sources said they had not yet received a figure from Washington but they were awaiting instructions from the State Department on processing and evacuating the Cubans.
Peru has agreed to take 1,000 of the Cubans and diplomats said military transport aircraft were standing by in Lima to begin the airlift. The Peruvian Foreign Ministry announced yesterday it had given Cuba a list of the first 500 refugees, all of whom had been given visas to travel to Peru.
Several other countries have agreed to admit some of the Cubans.

Political violence in Turkey takes nine lives

Ankara, April 14.—Nine people died in Turkey over the weekend through political violence which has already claimed about 1,000 lives this year.
The police said that on Saturday four armed men burst into a warehouse in Ankara and killed four right-wing sympathizers, including a father and his two sons.
The Turkish Parliament failed three more times today to elect a new President. Mr Sadettin Bilgili, the Justice Party candidate, received the highest total of votes, though insufficient for election.—Reuters and UPI.

Nuclear Power Debate

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OVERSEAS

Mr Begin leaves for Washington in defiant mood over settlements policy and Jerusalem

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, April 14

With a defiant public refusal to compromise on the controversial policy of expanding Jewish settlements in occupied Arab territory, Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, flew to Washington today to take part in the sensitive issue of Palestinian autonomy.

Senior political sources in Israel indicate that Mr Begin intends to adopt a tough negotiating stand, and is prepared to resist attempts to force the Israeli delegation to compromise on its policies.

The right-wing coalition Cabinet has given Mr Begin strict instructions not to deviate from the Israeli interpretation of the vaguely worded Camp David agreement.

Speaking to reporters at Tel Aviv airport, Mr Begin contemptuously dismissed the idea of imposing a temporary freeze on new settlements until the land seizure from the Arabs in 1967. The plan had been put forward by the American Government as a possible means of breaking the deadlock on autonomy.

Mr Begin also ruled out any discussion on Jerusalem during his talks with President Carter. This stand is certain to anger the Egyptian security forces in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Living in our land, settling in this land, these are inalienable rights," Mr Begin said referring to the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

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Repeating a theme which is central to Israel's negotiating position—and supported by both doves and hawks in the Cabinet—Mr Begin said firmly: "Everything should be looked at from the point of the Camp David agreement and Jerusalem is not mentioned at all in the agreement. Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, an indivisible city."

Accompanying the Prime Minister are Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the hardline Foreign Minister, and Dr Joseph Burg, Israel's chief autonomy negotiator.

All three men are believed to oppose the recently canvassed American suggestion to hold a marathon session of the autonomy talks in Washington in an effort to reach the May 26 deadline. They prefer instead that the speed up process should be spread out between America, Israel and Egypt.

Many Israeli ministers are apprehensive that President Carter intends to try to exert pressure on Israel to support a broader concept of Palestinian autonomy more similar to the Egyptian model than its own restricted version.

One political observer said: "The determination of the Israeli team to resist such pressure should not be underestimated."

Besides settlements and Jerusalem, the other main points of disagreement between Israel and Egypt include the future of the Egyptian security forces in the occupied autonomous area, control of natural resources, particularly water, and the powers

to be granted to the autonomy council.

Israel is adamant that the council should be purely administrative, while Egypt insists that it should have all the powers at present exercised by the Israeli military government.

Mr Begin's departure coincided with confirmation that the Israeli military government in the occupied West Bank has indefinitely postponed elections for the 25 Arab municipalities which should have taken place this month.

The move has angered the leaders of the 700,000 Palestinians living in the area. There is little doubt that the elections have been put off because of well-founded fears that they would have resulted in sweeping victories for many of the more radical Palestinian leaders in the region.

The election campaign would have given embarrassing publicity to the widespread opposition among ordinary Palestinians to the whole Camp David process, particularly the autonomy scheme.

In a statement today, Mr Karim Khatib, the mayor of Ramallah, said that he and his 24 fellow mayors would refuse to accept the Israeli decision. He added that the mayors would meet soon to work out a course of action, but gave no hint what that may be.

The last West Bank elections were held in 1976 and provided convincing victories for the radicals over the moderates in many of the municipalities.

The Gaza Strip—the other piece of land occupied in 1967—is not affected because Israel has never permitted elections there, and the Arab mayors are appointed.

From the embassy after the interviews had been completed. While they were still inside, the state radio quoted Khatib as saying: "Before I came to the embassy I couldn't dream the hostages would have such good conditions as this." He said he had spoken to some of the hostages who understood Persian.

The Red Cross interviews were arranged by the Iranian Government partly as an attempt to placate Western feelings following their failure to take control of the hostages as earlier promised.

But the move did not impress governments belonging to the EEC, who today began recalling their ambassadors from Tehran in a sign of diplomatic impatience over the continuation of the crisis.

Sir John Graham of Britain and other ambassadors from Germany, Italy and Belgium today. The French and Belgian envoys had their departures held up by a technical hitch with their flights. The Irish Chargé d'Affaires—Dublin's only diplomat in Tehran—expected to leave tomorrow along with the Japanese ambassador.

Normal Red Cross "prisoner of war" rules stipulate private interviews in the prisoner's normal place of confinement. The prisoners also supposed to be allowed to complete a confidential questionnaire. But once the students had given concrete assurances that all the hostages would be presented such refinements could easily be ignored.

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Water-borne shoppers pass an appropriately named supermarket in flooded New Orleans.

France unimpressed by Carter plea on Iran

From Ian Murray
Paris, April 14

President Carter's thinly veiled ultimatum to Europe that he must have greater support in his dealing with Iran in the near future has made little impression on the French Government—and what impression it has made has been unfavourable.

The unnamed "specific date" by which the President said he is expecting committed European support is believed to be some time in mid-May. But at the moment not disposed to break off diplomatic relations with Iran, or do anything more than maintain its condemnation of the continued detention of the hostages.

M. Raoul Delors, the French Ambassador in Tehran, is due to Paris tomorrow to report, but he is expected to return to his post soon afterwards. His report is to help the Government to prepare its position for the European foreign ministers' meeting in Luxembourg on April 21, when a joint approach to the Iranian problem may be put forward.

France has enjoyed better relations than most European countries with Iran since the fall of the Shah, because it gave refuge to the Ayatollah Khomeini in the last days of his exile. There is understandable French reluctance to do anything to endanger this privileged position with a big oil producer, and indeed with the Islamic world in general.

France is also traditionally wary of following an American lead in foreign policies, sticking out for an independent French and European line, in the belief that this is the way of breaking the grip of the superpowers on world affairs.

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Allies told US may have to divert Nato forces to the Middle East

From Michael Horvath
Brussels, April 14

The United States warned its European allies today that part of the American air, sea and land forces now committed to Nato may have to be diverted to the Middle East to defend vital Western interests there, including oil supplies.

The warning came when Mr Robert Komer, the United States Under-Secretary of State for Defence, met Nato ambassadors here to review the threat posed to Western security by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Speaking to journalists on the meeting, a senior Pentagon official said that Mr Komer had told America's allies that "if we have to go off and defend Western interests in the Middle East, we would expect them to take up the slack in Europe."

The official declined to speculate on the kind of crisis American forces might have to deal with in the Middle East. He also refused comment on reports that the United States was considering a naval blockade of Iran in retaliation for the holding of American hostages.

The American source did say, however, that the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan had given rise to concern that the Russians might seek to exploit the confusion in Iran, possibly by intervening on behalf of the Kurdish or Baluch minorities in that country.

The United States was actively engaged in discussions with its friends and allies "about the availability of transit and access rights" for American troops should they need to be sent to the Middle East, the senior official disclosed.

Oman, Kenya and Somalia were among the countries which had been approached on this matter, the source said, and their response had been more positive than expected. It need be the United States could mount a non-stop airlift of troops to the Middle East, but this would mean carrying more fuel than men.

Mr Komer's main message for his allies was that a crisis in the Middle East would require the diversion there of American back-up forces now held ready in the United States for rapid reinforcement of Nato strength in Europe, and that this would diminish the alliance's combat readiness.

He urged the allies to consider mobilizing trained reserve units which at present are not equipped for immediate action, and also to increase their stocks of ammunition and other war reserves in Europe as soon as possible. American material in Europe might have to be used in the Gulf.

Mr Komer also said that American airlift capacity would be under severe strain if troops had to be sent to the Middle East. He requested that European civil airlines, such as British Airways and Lufthansa, should make available aircraft that could be used in an emergency to transfer troops from the United States to Europe.

Mr Komer also disclosed that the United States would need to maintain at least one and possibly two aircraft carriers in the Indian Ocean for the foreseeable future, and that this would reduce Nato naval strength in the Mediterranean. A United States Marine amphibious unit stationed in the Mediterranean would also have to make periodic visits to the Indian Ocean.

The European allies were said by American officials to have responded "positively" to Mr Komer's suggestions. The Americans emphasized that many of their demands implied no more than an acceleration of existing long-term plans for improving Nato's combat readiness.

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, April 14

The Russians today accused the Carter administration of using pressure, threats and blackmail not only in dealing with its adversaries but also with its allies.

A Tass commentary on President Carter's call for West European to join the United States in taking action against Iran said Washington had evidently decided not to stand on ceremony with its partners.

Washington's ultimatum to its allies was accompanied by threats of military action against Iran and a naval blockade that would leave Western Europe and Japan cut off from Iran and its oil.

"Washington's policy of 'arm twisting and blackmail' is extremely humiliating to the allies. None of President Carter's predecessors has treated the West European countries so unceremoniously, in fact in the manner of a dictator. All this causes confusion and uneasiness in the West European capitals."

Meanwhile, Prada said today that the Americans were trying to unite the reactionary forces in Muslim countries under anti-communist slogans and to play on Muslim sentiment to stir up hostility to the Soviet Union.

The newspaper said Washington was putting around the propaganda myth that the United States and the West were "faithful friends" of almost "nations" of Islam. They were hoping Muslim peoples had forgotten the decades of ruthless colonial oppression.

Two of Japan's largest and most influential newspapers, the Yomiuri Shimbun and the Asahi Shimbun, have said the same thing bluntly.

In an editorial last week the Asahi Shimbun suggested that Japan should forsake the principle of international law in the interest of economic growth. It asked if the Americans would sacrifice their economic interests if 50 Japanese were held hostage.

Justifying the occupation of the embassy, the newspaper said: "Middle Eastern oil is Japan's lifeline and cannot be cut off. What kind of helping

hand does the United States intend to extend to the Japanese deal a heavy blow to the spirit of the United States?"

The occupation of the embassy and the arrest of 50 people are a serious challenge to the international community, the Asahi said. It urged the Japanese Government to take a firm stand against the American demand for the release of the hostages.

action, and also to increase their stocks of ammunition and other war reserves in Europe as soon as possible. American material in Europe might have to be used in the Gulf.

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Telecommunications

This report marks today's opening of the Communications 80

exhibition in Birmingham,

and examines new technology and its implications

In search of glittering prizes

During the period of most intensive competition in the 1970s for transatlantic aircraft passengers, one of the aviation industry's saws about an airline being as good as communications was put to the test. It was when the international airlines invested in elaborate computerized communications networks.

Visual display screens multiplied on the counters of ticket booking clerks and travel agents in the frenzy to take the last chance at filling seats. Engineering and maintenance departments refined their computer-based operations in a similar manner, to make the most use of the fleets of jumbos and new wide-bodied jets.

In operations where the airlines collaborate for air safety and for a common international telecommunications network, the latest computer communications systems were adopted. Neither the computer nor the telecommunications manufacturers were competent to provide exactly what was needed, so the aviation industry poured massive investment into the software necessary to turn the computer and telecommunications equipment into a working scheme.

Thus the airline industry provides perhaps the most visible illustration of how large organizations have become almost totally dependent on the twin electronic technologies of computers and communications. But networks based on both these technologies now form the business hub of banking and insurance, of the oil and chemical multinationals, of much of central and local government, and above all of the strategic defence command of the Western nations.

The journey to this state of affairs has been made by the technical equivalent of Dr Doolittle's Push-Me-Pull-You. The computer industry has formed one head and telecommunications the other, with the main body Post Office and its

counterparts, the international common carriers such as Cable and Wireless, Western Union, ITT and RCA, and the domestic services in the United States of the Bell Telephone Company and its rivals could not have coped with this expansion without computer-based technology.

There is competition between the traditional telecommunications equipment makers trying to protect their territory from invasion by computer manufacturers, and the telecommunications manufacturers who are trying to spread their business into the commercial world of data processing. One of the battlegrounds is the company telephone switchboard, or private branch exchange.

With the minimum of effort, the switchboard can become an extension of the main computer system. An internal telephone directory, the ability to hold calls automatically until an extension is free, the transfer of calls to an alternative number or the automatic return of a previously unsuccessful call are all functions which can be performed.

The telecommunications administrations, such as the Post Office, have protected their monopoly and the privileged position of their traditional suppliers by restricting the application of such techniques. To some extent their attitude is justifiable on arguments of a need to protect the public network from inadvertent interruption. Accommodating the most advanced equipment on the old-fashioned network introduces real difficulties in terms of potential interference with the established service.

An avalanche of computer-based digital telecommunications systems has come from the European industry over the past three or four years. They include the British Post Office's System X electronic telephone exchange.

Pearce Wright
Science Editor



System X opens up more services

Speaking recently at the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Mr John Whyte, deputy managing director of the Post Office Telecommunications, said that there were five main reasons for going digital: it was sympathetic to LSI (large-scale integration), it was economic, and it allowed a multi-service network. This means that new services can be launched without new network, and both data and telephony can easily be put over the same network.

For the businessman or communications manager it means that the electronic office will not stop at the new PABX which has just been installed in the office, but will eventually extend and be part of an electronic network. At present it is sometimes difficult to sell all the advantages of the electronic office when connections to the outside world still have to be made over electro-mechanical networks; but this will not always be so.

The Post Office is obviously pleased to see the introduction of System X throughout Britain but it has been said many times that to be a real success, System X must also sell abroad. This is where the picture becomes less rosy. British

Telecommunications Systems (BTS), the company set up to market System X abroad, will be competing with many companies that already know the ropes, and some which have equipment that has already been proved.

There is little doubt that System X is as good as any other design, and in some cases better. It has an automatic voice guidance system, which guides customers through the programming of customer facilities into their own telephones. This unique feature has already caused a great deal of interest.

Technology aside, the next part of the export equation is how the company sells, and whether it will provide soft loans through government agencies or banks, and allow technology transfer and production under licence by the customer.

The final part of the equation is where a company sells its system, and while BTS will be able to meet other requirements, finding countries which do not already have some ties with a manufacturer can be difficult.

However, Mr John Sharpley, the managing director

of BTS, is anxious that System X should not be written off as an export product. It will be available for export by 1982-83, but as negotiations on such systems can take up to two or three years, initial marketing and introduction has already begun.

With this time lag in mind the Post Office has done all it could to get the first two exchanges in Britain at Woodbridge, Suffolk, and Baynard House, London—operational ahead of schedule. This means that a working system will be available for potential customers to see sooner than was expected.

When talking about export areas, Mr Sharpley mentions the Middle East, Far East, Latin America and Asia. Most of the large national networks for the Middle East have already been ordered, or are being evaluated. Saudi Arabia is installing Ericsson and Philips equipment. Iraq is evaluating tenders: Syria has chosen CIT-Alcatel equipment; Egypt has chosen Siemens and Thomson-CSF; and Bahrain recently placed orders for both CIT-Alcatel and Ericsson equipment.

Latin America is making decisions now, and with this

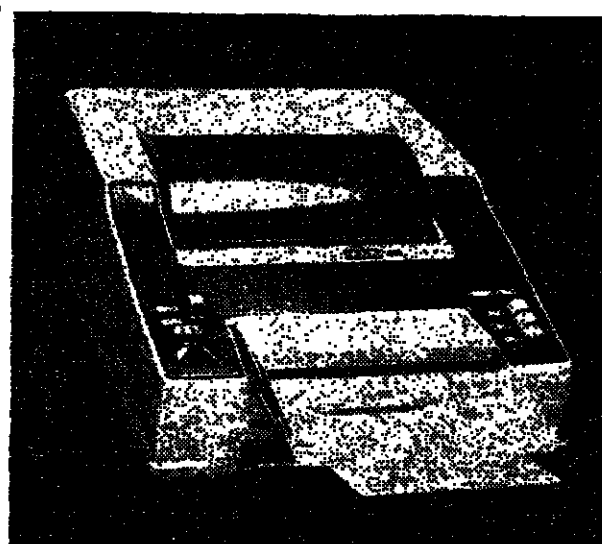
in mind, the Post Office and BTS will be at the Intecom exhibition in Rio de Janeiro in May. Latin America is split between countries which are keen to develop their own switching systems, but may require some technology transfer or cooperation, and those which are small enough not to need telecommunications manufacturing facilities. These smaller countries will be quite happy to buy outright, and not require licence for production of equipment.

Back in Britain, the worries which many people had over manpower requirements are now fading. Many of the large manufacturers have already had to deal with redundancies not so much because of System X as the loss of electro-mechanical equipment.

The Post Office Engineering Union (POEU) is negotiating with the Post Office over manning levels for System X exchanges. The two installations will be manned to TXE4 standards, this being a hand-wired programmable exchange, and the union hopes that this standard will be adopted for all System X exchanges.

Denise Clarke
communications editor,
Electronics Weekly

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Telephone users complain they are not consulted

The argument of the TMA and of its members is nearly expressed by the association's secretary, Mr Archie Price. "We have raised many contentious matters with government departments and committees in our work of representing major business users of telecommunications," he said. "These businesses make a major contribution to the United Kingdom's economy, and this is being seriously affected by the Post Office's inability to meet the needs of the business community, with a consequent lack of encouragement to the supplying industry."

The TMA's membership is more than 300 and is representative of almost every important commercial and industrial organization in Britain. It is recognized by both the Post Office and the telecommunications industry as the principal voice of informed opinion on business telecommunications affairs. The chairman is Mr Len Hope, communications manager of the Ford Motor Company, and the vice-chairman is Mr Stephen Finch, group communications adviser at British Petroleum.

"What we require is a special telecommunications

service for business users," Mr Finch said, "one which is designed specifically to meet the needs of business. This is clearly a matter for national concern. In international business, for instance, there is a constant need for truly international consultation and of being constantly in touch with key executives and decision makers around the world."

"Unfortunately the experience of telecommunications managers shows that in the provision of international circuits the Post Office can take anything up to six months to install a system. This, in the context of the requirements of international business, is an absurdly long time to take."

"There is also the point that within major business and financial organizations it is common enough for groups of people to be reorganized quickly and this calls for the speedy installation of telecommunications circuits, but the Post Office has demonstrated time and again that it cannot achieve this in the time available. It commonly takes a month or two to carry out work that should be performed over a weekend."

"This is particularly important for busy inter-

national firms in the City of London where there are more private circuits than anywhere else in the country. There seems to be a general acceptance, shared even by the Post Office, that City companies engaged, as so many of them are, in international business transactions are among the business users with most to complain about."

Among the main sufferers in the City are the foreign exchange dealers, whose need for instant international communications is probably greater than any others, and their views are well expressed by Mr Gordon Worton, communications officer of the Foreign Exchange and Currency Deposit Brokers' Association.

"It is important to recognize that the Post Office is now constituted under the Post Office Act in a position to prevent anything happening that it does not like," Mr Worton said. "Every thing seems to be designed to benefit the Post Office and its own interests: its management, its unions and its suppliers."

"The one essential participant in the Post Office's telecommunications business who is never taken into account is the user, especially the business user. The monopoly right as it exists at present effectively rules out the user from consideration and allows other interests to dictate the Post Office's policy. That monopoly right must go."

"Unfortunately the Post Office, no doubt for a variety of reasons, has acquired an essentially civil service characteristic."

It seems, however, that there is a willingness to acknowledge the efforts of the Post Office to improve its service to business users, as Mr Worton concedes, there has been a slight improvement over the past 12 months or so in some respects—some evidence of an awakening of interest in the need for customer satisfaction. But this is only because of the very heavy criticism of the users."

These views are endorsed by Mr Hope. "One can understand the severe criticism of users in the City," he said, "but it is probably more accurate to say that other main-users feel regret at the lost opportunities that should have been used by the Post Office to introduce a really first-class international telecommunications service for business users."

Alan Grainge

NEXOS 6400

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Post Office sends reply to its critics

When the Post Office introduced its new advanced Monarch and Herald stored programme digital exchanges for business users later this year it will at once be demonstrating its own considerable technological capability and offering a reply to critics of its buying policy. Among the diversity of criticisms of the Post Office put forward by business users in recent months has been that the Post Office Act leaves it with a service and a politically dictated role that are not compatible with the changing requirements of the users.

One frequently quoted instance in support of this criticism is that the introduction of the private automatic branch exchange (PABX) of the stored programme control type would have been delayed several more years if IBM had not introduced its 7350 product and so, it is claimed, forced British suppliers and the Post Office to respond.

Senior Post Office executives are not only unem-

barrassed by this strictures but point out that it is only one instance in a complex area and that there were special circumstances in this development which gave IBM, a computer company, an early technological lead over British telecommunications manufacturers.

Both the Monarch 120 and the Herald are Post Office developments which, it is claimed, are far in advance of any other and, as they are being commercially manufactured by British companies, they demonstrate that important aspects of Post Office policy which is to support the British telecommunications manufacturing industry. In this respect, whatever substantial delay there may be in some of the big users' criticisms, the Post Office case is difficult to refute.

It is expressed by Mr Sam Swallow, the Post Office's senior director in charge of procurement, thus: "In the first place it is essential to distinguish between the two main categories of telecom-

munications equipment: an essentially short-term measure to give United Kingdom producers time to catch up.

At almost every stage in the continuing argument between the Post Office and the main business customers there is ironic evidence of an apparent failure of communication between the two sides.

One particular complaint of many business customers is that the Post Office is restricted to offering a single level of service for provision, moves and maintenance of equipment to both business and domestic customers. This, it is claimed, severely inhibits the business customer and prevents the Post Office from meeting the different requirements of big business.

Another complaint is that the range of telecommunications facilities supplied by the Post Office also does not meet the needs of business, and its monopoly makes it the sole supplier of many of the principal

telecommunications terminals such as telephone handsets and telex machines.

The first of these criticisms is acknowledged by Post Office executives to be partly valid. There is some sympathy with customers in the City of London, among them banks, brokers, dealers and other financial institutions, whose needs for international telecommunications equipment are recognized.

There is a long waiting list for the installation of PABXs and an equally long waiting list for private circuits, a senior Post Office executive said. "It is a problem that we are trying to deal with and one that has been partly caused by labour troubles and by the sudden demand for such facilities from business customers."

In reply to the second point made by business customers, Mr Gordon Pocock, senior director of marketing at the Post Office, comments: "It is

very difficult to know exactly what these customers require in addition to the facilities that are available. I would be very surprised if they can reasonably claim that the basic grid system does not give them what they need.

But even allowing that some business customers have a valid case—and I accept this—when they urge that they should have priority outside the strict requirements of treating all customers alike, the fact is that we already give them some priorities and with the introduction of our System X they will get still more.

This is a new digital system, more reliable, fault-free and more sophisticated, which is to be introduced in 30 main business centres. We expect it to be operating by about 1986."

But there are some substantial issues in the allegations made by many business users that the Post Office's buying policies, restricted as they are by the Post Office Act, lead to its adopting an

attitude of paternalism which is unwelcome, overlooking the fact that the Post Office knows better than its customers what is best for them? The Post Office replies: "If we cannot provide certain equipment that our customers demand then we shall make it available by licensing its manufacture."

As a senior Post Office executive explained: "The Act requires us to operate in a commercial manner and that, basically, means that there must be a commercial market for services that are required. But the record shows that if this does not exist we are always prepared to license the manufacture of telecommunications equipment that might be required by our customers. We have never that quite often when a customer has complained that some service is not available, there is a significant shortage of detail when we ask how we can remedy the problem."

Alan Grainge

New science v £1,000m a year

Fibre optics as a science is still in the experimental stage but will play a significant role in modern telecommunications. Present estimates assess the market as being more than £1,000m a year, which encompasses not only the fibre optic used in transmission cables but the electronic equipment needed at either end of a cable to code and decode.

An optical fibre is simply a thin strand, capable of transmitting light, the fibres are about a tenth of a millimetre in diameter and in comparison with any other form of cable, they are much lighter, more flexible and more resistant to damage.

The fibre is made from sand (silica). It is specially treated with glass with particular electronic characteristics which make it easy for the substance to transport pulses of light along extensive distances of cable without any significant deterioration in the quality of the signal that is being transmitted.

Although, in its present form it is still in infancy it was employed in a sparser form more than 20 years ago when dentists, surgeons and engineers used the fibre to be able to see a light source into an awkward corner or crevice.

It was not until 1966 that two research engineers working for ITT in Britain were able to perfect the technique of using the fibre to transport light pulses that could be decoded at the other end of a transmitting fibre. The possibilities seemed endless. Any form of data from information on a computer, a telephone conversation or contained in a picture, could be converted into a series of digital light pulses.

But the fibre that would allow that to happen on a large scale was not commercially available until 1971, when an American company, Corning Glass, launched a high-quality refined product.

What are the advantages of this new material? Apart from being light in weight it has a large band width, which means that the amount of information it can carry at any one time despite its physical size can be thousands of times greater than that carried by any other material. It is also immune from electromagnetic interference so is ideal for application in areas where electrical signals in the vicinity of the cable could distort the signal.

One of the initial experiments was one of the British Telecoms which caused British Rail and London Transport to experiment with the material.

In October, 1977, BT in cooperation with the GEC laid a 6km section along the Euston and Manchester Inter-City line to carry telephone signals. The next year London Transport responded by installing a similar 7km stretch between Euston and Acron on the District Line of the London Underground.

How to read a newspaper without turning a page

The words teletext and viewdata were unheard of a few years ago; now they represent completely new publicly available communications media. Using the broadcast services and the telephone network respectively, they bring "pages" of information up to the screens of television sets in the home and in business. Telecommunications and computers are the keys to these new developments.

Teletext is the generic name for the broadcast services, of which there are two in Britain: the BBC's Ceefax and independent television's Oracle. Transmitted together with the normal television programmes, they can be received in sets which have been fitted with special decoders, and called up for display by means of a remote-control keypad.

Each teletext service provides a magazine of several hundred pages covering a variety of topics — general news, sports results, weather reports, financial news and so on. The pages are transmitted in sequence and the transmissions are repeated continuously, so that the user may have to wait a few seconds for the required page to "come round again", depending on the precise

time at which the keypad buttons are depressed.

The teletext pages are part of the news and entertainment output of the broadcasting organizations, and a major part of their input lies in the fact that they can be updated continually. Not only can the news pages show the latest news; if required they can also be flashed on to the screen—superimposed on a normal television programme—immediately the information is received in the Ceefax or Oracle newsroom.

BBC1, BBC2 and independent television together put out about 800 teletext pages, which are available 17 hours a day, seven days a week. For many viewers, teletext will be their first introduction to the new world of information printed electronically via television screens.

The second step along this route will take them—if they can afford the special television sets needed—into the new medium of viewdata or videotex. These are the generic terms for a system which links the telephone and the television receiver so as to enable the viewer to call up (through the public telephone network) pages of information from a computer centre and, again, display them on the television screen.

While the number of broadcast pages is measured in hundreds, the number of pages available on Prestel, the Post Office's viewdata service, is more than 150,000. The pages are supplied by more than 130 commercial information-providing organizations, and are held in the memory of special-purpose Post Office computers. As with teletext, page selection is by means of a remote-control keypad; Prestel keypads can be used to receive the teletext services also.

Unlike the broadcast teletext services, which are free once a teletext-equipped television set has been

bought or rented, viewers have to pay extra for the pages they call up on the Prestel service. The charge is made up of the telephone connection charge, computer access charge, and where appropriate the page charge levied by the information provider.

For the business user, special terminals are being developed which do not need to be able to receive the broadcast television services. Some of them can also handle a company's own internal database as well as connecting to that of Prestel.

Domestic Prestel sets sell for up to £1,200 at present, but the price is expected to drop.

Prestel marks the beginning of two revolutions—in the way that business users access to computer-based information retrieval; in the home, electronic shopping and other transactions. Already one can consult The Good Food Guide, page by page, on one's television set; soon one will be able to follow through by reserving a table at a chosen restaurant and selecting the wine, simply by pressing the correct numbers on the Prestel keypad.

Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

The right lines for prosperity

There is one service that all peoples of the developed Western world complain about more than any other—the telephone.

Italian, French, British—most telephone users can relate some tale of horror experienced at the hands of the telephone or the national post office administration.

In this space-age world where we take so many things for granted, perhaps the next time we get a crossed line or an engaged signal when using the telephone, before cursing the post office we should stop and consider the part telecommunications have played in creating the standard of living we enjoy, and realize that there are millions of people in the developing world for whom telecommunications could mean the difference between just getting enough to eat and starvation and death.

Communications has always been a key ingredient in the development of the economies and prosperity of nations. In the developed world, economic growth and improved communications have become almost totally correlated since, in simple terms, growth has provided capital for more and better communications which, in turn, has contributed to further prosperity, and so on.

This evolutionary process has led most developed nations to a position where they now have highly developed communications networks representing thousands of millions of pounds of cumulative investment. Almost without exception, gross national product per capita and the growth in the telephone system have increased together.

The situation in the poorer developing nations is quite different. All are striving desperately for greater prosperity, often trying to attract foreign investment, and the pressures on them to develop quickly are enormous. However, most do not have the foundations for communications, so that the growth to communications correlation has not been possible. This lack of communications, lack of a national electronics industry, of trained technicians and engineers, and of money to do anything about it is imposing serious limitations on the speed of their development.

The simple criterion used to determine the level of development of a nation's telephone network is the number of telephone sets per 100 of its population. On this basis, the United States has nearly 80 telephones for every 100 of its 212 million population has the most developed network. The United Kingdom, with the third most highly developed telecommunications network in the world behind the United States and Japan, has about 48 telephones per 100 population.

The contrast between these figures, and those from the developing world is startling. The average telephone density in African countries south of the Sahara is less than one telephone for every 300 people, and only a few countries in the whole of the Middle East and Asia have a telephone density of more than 10 telephones per 100 population, and for most the figure is way below one.

To attain growth by attracting investment by foreign companies and to bring education and other services to an often thinly spread population, the governments of these countries desperately need telecommunications. Much is being done by the International Telecommunications Union arm of the United Nations which has generated a considerable

amount of activity in the area of technology transfer and in organizing massive global and regional plans for telecommunications development. In carrying out this vital work, member states from the developed world are playing their part by providing engineers and technicians to act as consultants and advisers in these countries. The British Post Office, for example, usually has about 250 people overseas at any one time on ITU assignments, and numbers from other nations are comparable.

From its headquarters in Geneva the ITU produces many tutorial handbooks and other publications designed to aid the developing countries. It is also the international regulatory body which sets standards for telecommunications equipment and many operational procedures, organizing, for example, the World Administrative Radio Conference held in Geneva last year to allocate the use of the radio frequency spectrum to the nations of the world for communications, broadcasting and other activities. Through these activities the ITU enjoys a close working relationship with the international scientific community in its search for new and improved solutions to the telecommunications problems of the world.

But it is in the field where the ITU is having the most visible impact. It recently completed a major Middle East and Mediterranean Basin Regional Plan which set out in detail future telecommunications growth patterns in the area and made recommendations on the future networks and systems which will be required to meet this growth. In Africa 38 countries representing 83 per cent of the area and every 10 per cent of the population of the continent are in the early stages of implementing an ambitious Pan-African telecommunications network known as Panafrel.

Such a network is desperately needed to replace the old and grossly inadequate systems established by the colonial powers, systems in which much of the telephone and telegraph communications from one African country to another had to be routed through Europe. Since the early planning stages in 1962, much assistance has come from the ITU with strong support from financial institutions and development agencies.

As a measure of what has been achieved, by the beginning of last year there were 16 international telephone switching centres, 31 international telex exchanges and 30,000 kilometres of high-quality transmission routes consisting of either relay or cable systems. In addition, a 5,000 km submarine cable connected Casablanca (Morocco) with Dakar (Senegal) and Abidjan (Ivory Coast), and some 30 satellite earth stations provided international and intercontinental services through the international Intelsat satellite communications network. Four countries are also using the satellites for their own internal services as an economical way of bringing telecommunications to rural areas.

There are many problems remaining, problems of training sufficient skilled people to maintain and operate the new systems, problems of generating the vast finances required to implement major systems, and the social problems such massive changes will inevitably bring.

If the world population is to be fed and international understanding fostered to prevent armed conflict, the world needs telecommunications. Through the ITU a considerable amount is being done, but there are still millions of people who have never seen a telephone, let alone used one.

The next time we get a crossed line we should remember that all things and problems are relative.

R. J. Raggett
European editor, Telephone

Call for freer airwaves

The right to broadcast has always been a subject of controversy in the United Kingdom. Because of our conservative approach to the subject every aspect of it is carefully controlled by one Act of Parliament after another. The American, Canadian and in some cases the East European laws governing local or community broadcasting in television or radio are considerably more liberal.

Within the United Kingdom, the monopoly was ended by the BBC until 1955 when independent television took to the airwaves. However, the franchises that were to be given to the commercial companies and the people who would operate them were strictly controlled by government statute.

Individual broadcasting, principally in radio since that was the most practicable in terms of personal transmissions, was safeguarded by the Wireless Telegraphy Act of 1949 which gave control of the airwaves in Britain to the Post Office and the Home Office. Radio hams are licensed and are required to undergo a series of examinations to establish their technical credentials and in turn their right to operate a radio transmitter.

More liberal European laws and maritime broadcasting in the 1960s resulted

in many pop radio stations operating from outside Britain easily received in the large conurbations of England, Scotland and Wales. Television was, because of the economics, protected from what became termed piracy, but with the European satellites now accessible and cheap, British television soon may find itself competing for airwaves.

Commercial television was under way by 1955. Its formation was to be that of a network, while at the same time many programmes would be generated locally so establishing a particular local flavour. The catchment area of television companies is three or four times greater than that of a typical local radio station.

The commercial service is controlled by the Independent Broadcasting Authority established by the Act of Parliament passed in 1973. Radio contracts are given for a maximum of three years and updated each year while television franchises are for a fixed period of six years. The mechanism is rigid, especially compared with the United States, but it is clearly meant to provide a central body of authority which can control where and in what way something can be broadcast.

This control is present in every aspect of broadcasting in the United Kingdom. One side believes that Britain's

proximity to Europe must commit it to cooperation on a national level to prevent unnecessary interference, but others would prefer to be allowed more freedom. On a national level there is little doubt that such control and control is needed. Recently, the world conference on radio met to barter allocations as one would expect to see in a free market in the United Nations.

However, at the domestic level of broadcasting the arguments about freedom are many. Why should there be one authority to allocate commercial frequencies for broadcasting? Why should commercial music radio stations, as far as independent operations are concerned, be given a monopoly in the area in which they broadcast? These are questions best levelled at the IBA.

However, it is on the personal side of broadcasting that energies are being channelled through the broadcasting lobbies of the United Kingdom, not dissimilar to the campaign for commercial radio and television. The latest campaign is for the right of an individual to possess a small personal portable low-powered transmitter, which has been labelled in the United States citizens' band radio or CB. Its range is between 15 and 20 miles.

Bill Johnstone

Under separate cover

The transmission of computer data over the world's telecommunications circuits has been kept largely separate from the bulk of communications conducted as voice messages. The separation has mainly been economic rather than technical, but as the volume of data grows the pressures on the telecommunications network to adopt the approach of sharing all circuits for telephone, computer or broadcast traffic is overwhelming.

Nevertheless there are factors other than economic or technical considerations to modify decisions. The issue of the unfettered use of international telecommunications links raises many basic social and political issues.

Even wider ramifications have been explored by an expert group of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and published under the title Policy Implications of Data Network Development in the OECD Area. The scope of the examination is immense. It includes reviews of plans and developments of data networks in Sweden, Britain, America, Japan and Europe overall. Major policy issues are introduced by technical and political specialists to set the stage for a debate, for example, on the social impact of data networks, and the merits of a Eurodata Foundation.

Although it is invidious to select one contribution from

this exchange, the arguments made by Dr Ithiel de Sola Pool and Dr Richard J. Solomon of the United States place in sharp focus the issues that are causes of great concern.

Their premise is that legal and political impediments threaten to obstruct the operation of useful transnational data services. Other people are examining the questions of privacy; therefore they concentrate on the other reasons for the imposition of controls affecting the exchange of data. Regulations should be formulated to protect personal information; but they ask what mechanisms are to be derived for non-personal data without being too restrictive or commercially non-permissive.

The argument turns on the notion that creators and vendors of intellectual property must be paid and must be able to enforce the contracts they make. Trade in a commodity as fluid as computer data transmitted by telecommunications networks requires different commercial institutions, and practices, in their view, from trade in physical goods, or even books and films. Industries have not devised adequate arrangements for liability or the definition of ownership, and other facets of the problem.

The propositions made by Dr Pool and Dr Solomon involve a combination of political and technical solutions. But they are formulated from certain criteria that they suggest should be applied in assessing the character of the commercial data which will be dis-

patched across international borders.

The first consideration is simply called public good. It is not very clear how the value judgment is made when, for example, a data communication of commercial value may not be for the public good. And the free trade ethic behind these arguments might not be so readily acceptable to other countries as their architects would hope.

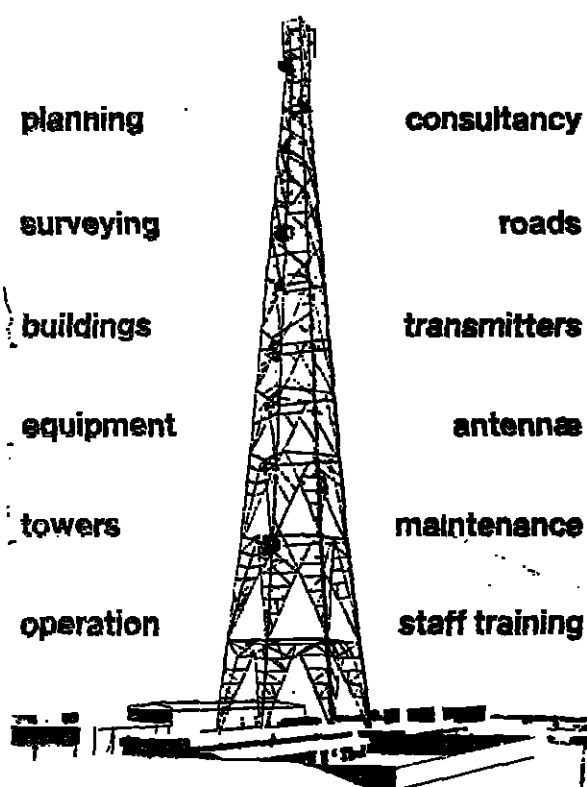
An equally important weight is attached to the adoption of uniform engineering standards. Even though this has been a practice of the earlier stages of telecommunication development, the emergence of computer data transmission has provoked varying attitudes.

In a similar vein, attention is drawn to the methods of planning of the cable and satellite networks which make up the global links. The services provided by the two modes differ in technical, financial and administrative standpoints. Data transmission is by no means the major traffic yet conveyed over these links, yet the argument is made for a more sympathetic consideration of the needs of this growing sector of subscribers in the planning stage. More elaborate security provisions, to protect commercial information on which a price can be put, are also advocated.

On the other hand the problem of computer fraud is treated as a matter of more imagination than real concern.

Pearce Wright

Communications Need



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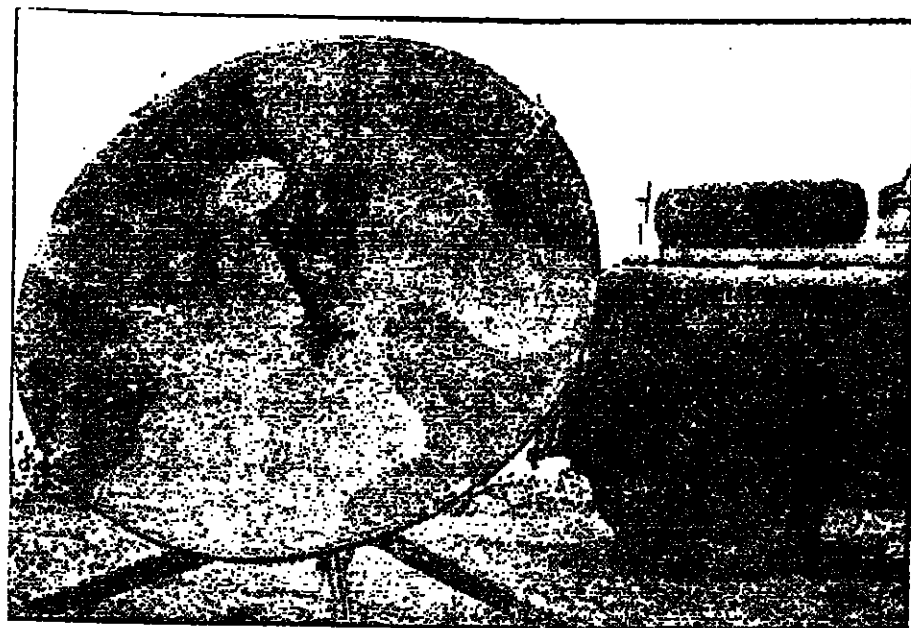
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Electronic commander could survive the bomb



A satellite communications antenna of the type used to link Salisbury with London before the election in Zimbabwe.

main body of the left to take a recent peace operation in Zimbabwe contingent of equipment had in Salisbury what is now one element in any exercise—secure units that are reliable.

the operation, a portable satellite link into the British command a 24-hour open Salisbury and the British satellite. If they could have contacted the 5 or other Nato satellite, while on the assembly covered by a communications could have carried any difficulties to the command.

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communications count more in command and control they become more the elements of electronic warfare.

With the Nato allies establishing extensive and complex networks involving many thousands of transmitters and receivers, electronic warfare could be devastating. As was demonstrated in the 1973 war in the Middle East, the Eastern block is developing electronic capability against communications.

For this reason the United States Department of Defence now requires that Electronic Counter Counter Measures (ECCM) capability must come early in the development cycle, and this priority is reflected in such programmes as the United States Government-funded SINGARS V (Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System vhf), being undertaken jointly by British and American industry, and Jaguar.

These systems use a technique known as frequency hopping to provide high immunity from deliberate jamming and message interception. Unlike the conventional radio system which uses a single frequency in sending and receiving messages, frequency hopping introduces pseudo-random frequency changes during transmission and reception at a rate of between 80 and 100 changes

a second in the slowest versions, and upwards of 1,000 changes a second in the faster systems.

In another American programme known as JTIDS (Joint Tactical Information Distribution System) the technique of spread spectrum is used for ECCM, a technique which spreads the radio energy over a wide band of frequencies to make the signal harder to detect and jam. JTIDS will provide integrated communication, navigation and identification capabilities for all four American services in the 1980s.

It is one of a vast number of programmes which add up to total expenditure on communications equipment by the United States between 1976 and 1983 of about £7,000m, a figure which does not include the associated command and control elements.

With the possibility of integrating over 100,000 transistors on a chip the size of a finger nail, the impact of these miniature sub-systems on military communications will be considerable. Commanders in the field will have immediate access by satellite to data banks thousands of miles away, that same satellite being used to relay information from sensor systems to command centres on enemy troop movements, accuracy of weapon attacks, and even local weather conditions. We are in an age when most things are possible.

R.J.R.

Vital role in world airline industry

Telecommunications play a vital part in the world airline industry where there is a need for speedy contact over long distances, and where the sheer size of the number of people and freight being carried today would overwhelm systems lacking the most modern technology.

Most of the world's airlines have highly advanced systems, although some of them have tended to be out-paced by the explosive growth enjoyed by the industry over the past decade, particularly in areas such as the Middle East, parts of Africa, and the Far East. Estimates made at the beginning of the decade of the number of messages which would be passed by 1980 proved in most cases to be far too low, with the result that there was a scramble during the late 1970s for new equipment.

But while the equipment is available, the highly skilled manpower needed to operate it and to service it remains scarce for the airlines which have to compete with the many other users of advanced telecommunications. Most of the bigger airlines now have their own training schools, while the smaller ones send their trainees to schools such as that operated by International Aeradio at Bath. There is still a residual glamour about working for

an airline for some recruits, and the prospect of cheap staff travel also attracts people.

Airline communications break down into four main sections: radio, teletype, telephone and data processing. Radio is used for passing messages between ground and the airlines, although in remote parts of the world it may also be used for messages between various bases. Each operator will have a selective call band over which it can pass company messages to its crews in flight wherever they are.

Fourteen low-speed international company messages generally come over the company teletype system, but in most airlines they have reached such large numbers that they are distributed by computer.

SITA, the international airlines communications consortium, and a similar organization in the United States, play a major part in this vast message-passing operation. Saudia, the national airline of Saudi Arabia, a medium-sized operator, passes, for instance, 30,000 routine low-speed messages every 24 hours, rising to 40,000 in 24 hours at the peak travel season.

It is in the area of data communications that telecommunications have had, and will continue to have,

the greatest impact on the airline industry. However, in the case of Saudia, the airline is to install its own in-house computer in 1982, but in the meantime "piggybacks" on the British Airways computer at West London air terminal 3,000 miles away for its reservations, and on the Alitalia computer in Rome for its engineering inventory.

The link with the BA computer BABS in London is achieved by way of land lines in both Saudi Arabia and Britain and in between by satellite, one over the Indian Ocean, the other over the Atlantic. Reservations clerks in Jeddah can interrogate BABS by way of their keyboards and have the answer back on their video screens in the amazingly short time of two seconds.

When Saudia installs its own computer it will cope not only with reservations and the engineering inventory at present carried in Rome, but such extra tasks as payroll, finance, flight crew scheduling, and flight operations rosters.

Modern telecommunications help Saudia to answer up to 7,000 calls a day at its Jeddah office alone, 90 per cent of them being replied to within 20 seconds against an airline industry average of 80 per cent.

Computer and telecom

munications sharing is common in the airline industry. British Airways' BABS, in fact, holds the schedules for 70 airlines, in addition to its own, and also provides the airline with facilities for payroll calculations, pensions, accounting, statistics, cost control, component control, flight planning and in-flight data analysis.

The system uses a vast network of communications links around the world consisting of more than 50 computers linked to 3,500 visual display units and 1,000 teletype printers in 650 cities. The network extends from Oslo and Helsinki in the north to Cape Town and Christchurch in the south, and east to west from Tokyo and Auckland to Los Angeles. BA has worked out that BABS represented 800 man-years to establish.

The system is equipped with four million characters of high-speed memory and more than 4,200 million characters of backing storage. BABS holds details of every flight for a year ahead and full booking details for some 15-million passengers a year.

The airline's offices, and those of many others, have access to the BABS system through a worldwide communications network of satellite, cable and microwave links operating at

speeds of up to 3,600 bits per second. Offices in such faraway places as Australia and South Africa receive replies to booking requests in two or three seconds. The computers in London handle such inquiries at the rate of 60 per second at peak times, and in total the system handles more than 1,250,000 messages every day.

BA offices around the world can also make hotel reservations for passengers through BABS and can ask it for package-tour bookings and fares quotations. Later this year each office with a computer terminal will be able to use the computer in London for the construction of fares, in the past a laborious and time-consuming task with enormous possibilities for error and therefore loss of revenue for the airlines.

Modern telecommunications are expensive to develop and install, but once in and operating they have great potential for saving money as well as time. British Airways has estimated that its BABS system has reduced the costs per passenger for reservations from 12p in 1973 to 4.4p today. When the effect of inflation is considered, the latter figure drops still further to 5.9p.

Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Cables will not be outdone by satellites

Satellites have transformed transoceanic communications. New applications, such as the delivery of electronic mail, keep emerging.

An electronic reading machine can scan the pages of a business letter or contract document in, say, London for a copy to be printed out simultaneously in New York, Paris or Bonn.

Yet, despite such novel uses of satellites, high frequency radio and submarine cables are far from extinct. One reason is the danger of putting too many eggs in one basket. Communications satellites have become increasingly attractive economic systems, as their ability to provide a greater number of circuits increases. But the networks are of strategic importance. Therefore, despite the great improvement in reliability of satel-

lites, there are powerful political arguments for maintaining alternative systems.

Equally important, the techniques for constructing submarine cables have progressed in parallel with the development of spacecraft. Although the underwater links do not offer the same capacity as the satellite, the cable can be repaired and it is as cheap to use.

The type of traffic which fills the airwaves and cables today is not quite the mixture that was forecast by the specialists in the early 1960s. Those analysts predicted that computer data would have outstripped the telephone and broadcast channels by now. True, the computer-type messages have met the expectations, but other types of communication have also developed at an enormous pace.

Satellites with the capacity to handle 12,000 two-way telephone circuits have been built for Intelsat V, the fifth generation of relay stations being launched for the International Satellite Organization.

Many improvements have been made in building more compact, reliable and high capacity transmitters for putting into the space station. Novel ideas have been exploited for switching the radio beams between ground stations. But the success of a communications satellite turns on reliable rocket launchers. Hitherto only expendable-type launchers have been in use. The Thor-Delta and Atlas-Centaur vehicles are key factors in cutting communications satellite costs.

The expendable vehicles have been able to put 11b of

payload into orbit for about \$1,000. Thus, though an Atlas-Centaur is a bigger and more expensive rocket than its predecessor, the larger satellite carried into space provides a higher proportion of communications circuits for the price.

The next target is to cut the payload costs to about \$100 a lb, and that is the aim of the Shuttle space transportation system.

The impact of the Shuttle is difficult to assess. This type of vehicle calls for a design of satellite that can be placed into space by astronauts working in earth orbit. It will be possible to retrieve and repair satellites. Thus the whole concept of satellite technology, of which communications stations form only a part, is undergoing a transformation to exploit this advantage.

In the same way as sub-

marine cables and radio links provide a complement to satellites, so it will be expedient to retain expendable launch vehicles. That need has given the European Space Agency an opportunity to develop a vehicle, Ariane, to fill the role of an alternative launcher.

The third component in space communications, after the launch vehicles and satellite, is the earth station. Although this item may not have the same glamour as the other two, the earth station has been the subject of immense technical innovation. It also forms a large commercial market. The number of earth stations for commercial communications work is expected to multiply rapidly.

P.W.

Not just System X—here are more engineering achievements of Post Office Telecommunications.

* **Subscriber Trunk Dialling** for everyone in the UK.

* **International Direct Dialling** leads the world in giving 96% of customers access to as many as 400,000,000 phones in 91 countries.

* **Prestel**, the world's first public viewdata service, already sold to West Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland and Hong Kong.

* **Optical Fibre Transmission**, a method of sending calls using pulses of light.

* **Confravision**, a unique TV link between major British cities that saves businessmen unnecessary travel.

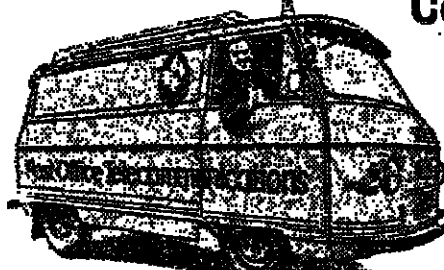
* **International Packet Switching Service**, the first commercial intercontinental packet-switched data service to the USA.

* **Radiopaging**, the world's largest integrated network now being installed.

* **Telconsult**, a service which helps other countries set up sophisticated telecommunications systems of their own.

* **Orator**, a new audio conference facility.

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AXE: the best digital switching investment for telephone administration

Here are 23 considered opinions.

Argentina

One digital exchange, serving 7000 subscribers, ordered July 1979. Cut-over 1981.

Australia

A system choice for the modernization and extension of the Australian telephone network. Contract awarded September 1977.

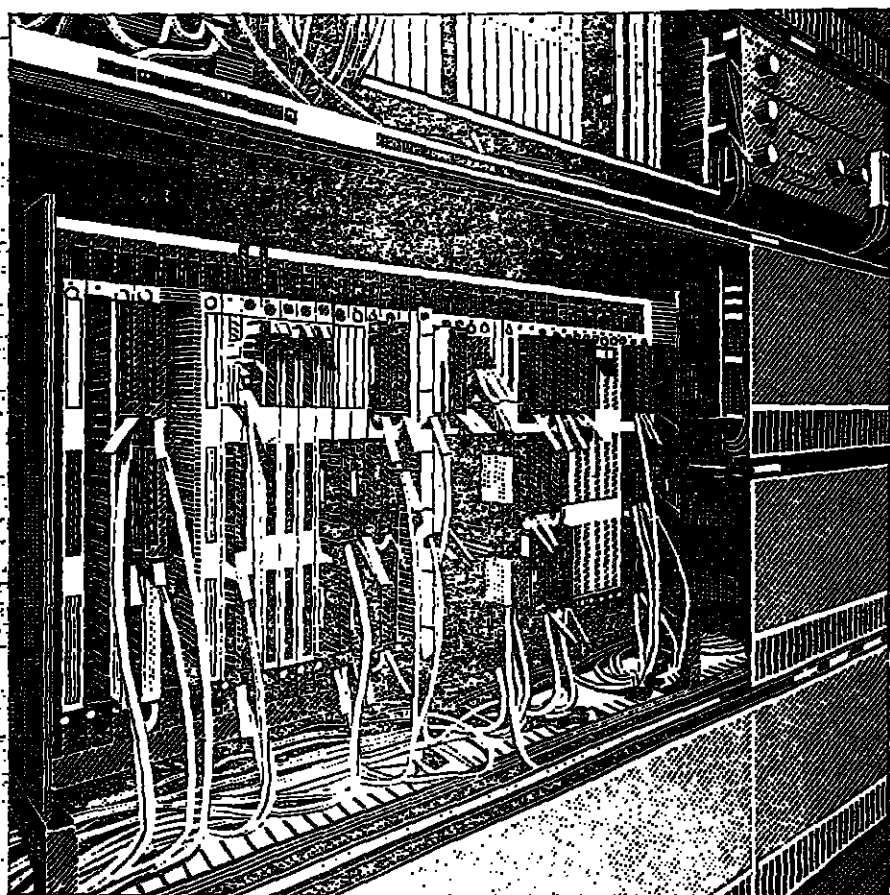
A first analogue exchange with a capacity of 4000 lines is on order. Future deliveries to be produced locally. About 1.5 million lines will be installed during the 80's.

Bahrain

AXE first ordered February 1979. On order: a combined exchange for 10,000 subscribers and 6000 trunks. Cut-over 1981.

Brazil

Tender issued by Telebras, in 1976, for an analogue switching system. AXE was one of three systems chosen for the development of the Brazilian telephone network. Five analogue local exchanges serving 50,800 subscribers are on order. Local production.



A special computer (the APZ 210) and a new high-level programming language were designed to meet the requirements of the AXE software package. As a result of this unorthodox approach, AXE software meets the need of telephone staff, rather than computer specialists.

Colombia

Following keen competition in international tenders, AXE digital exchanges serving 230,000 subscribers and 12,328 trunks have been ordered.

Denmark

First ordered AXE October 1977. Orders to date: three digital transit exchanges for 26,000 trunks; one exchange for 10,000 mobile subscribers; two local exchanges for 6000 subscribers. First exchange cut-over 1980.

Finland

First AXE ordered March 1975. In service: one local analogue exchange for 4000 subscribers (cut over 1977) and one digital transit for 480 trunks (cut over 1978). The following digital exchanges are on order: one exchange for 10,000 mobile subscribers; 19,000 local lines; and 1440 trunks for extensions.

France

In May 1976, after an international tender for analogue exchanges, the French PTT selected AXE as one of two systems. The first exchange, with an initial capacity of 12,900 lines, was handed over in June 1979. Local exchanges for 660,000 subscribers are on order. Local production.

Ireland

The digital AXE system has been chosen by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, for an extensive expansion and modernisation of the telephone network of the Republic of Ireland.

Italy

First AXE, with a capacity of 960 lines, handed over in December 1978. In addition, two transit exchanges with a multiple capacity of 4800 inlets are now in service. On order: a further 7680 trunks - two exchanges with capacity of 6240 trunks and 1440 trunks for extensions.

Kuwait

Three digital exchanges for 30,000 subscribers, ordered in June 1977 after an international tender. Another tender resulted in an order for an additional 40,000 subscribers.

Recently, extensions for 40,000 subscribers have been ordered, bringing the total to 110,000 subscribers.

Madagascar

One local exchange, serving 20,000 subscribers, ordered in 1978.

Malaysia

Three AXE local exchanges, serving 40,000 subscribers, are on order.

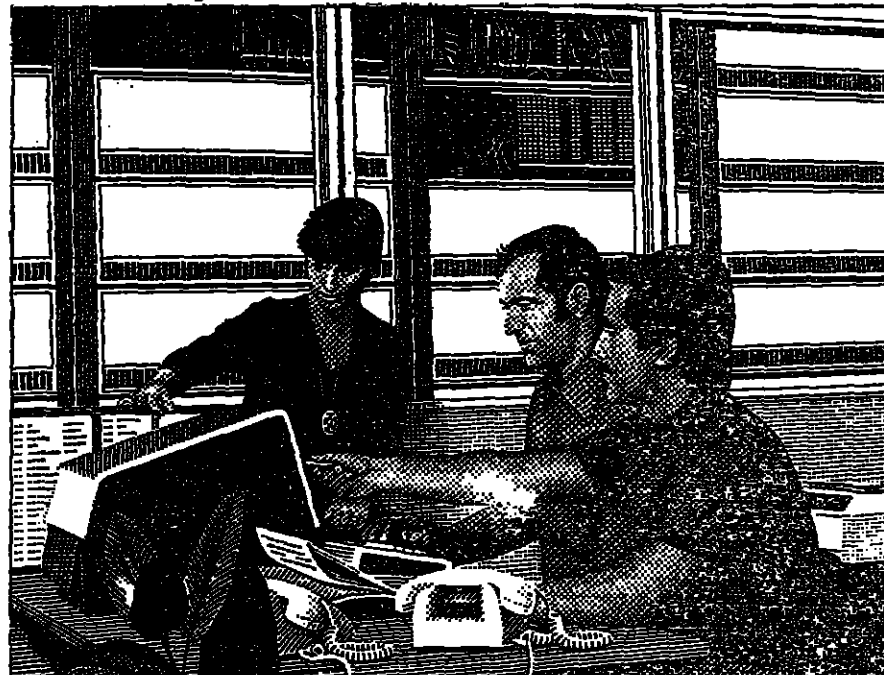
Mexico

Contract signed March 1979. On order: digital AXE equipment for 25,000 subscribers. Cut-over 1980.

Netherlands

International tender concerning a system choice. Late 1977 PTT announced their choice of AXE.

To date, orders placed for 16 local exchanges with a capacity of 42,496 subscribers. Original decision for analogue equipment has recently been changed to digital. First exchange will be cut over in 1980. Three districts in the Netherlands - Rotterdam, Breda and Goes - will be served by AXE.



Overall long-term economy was the main objective for the designers of AXE. The language designed by Ericsson for man-machine communication is a good example. It has proved so effective that it is now accepted as an international standard.

Norway

First order September 1978: two digital exchanges for mobile subscribers with a total capacity of 25,000 lines. The Oslo exchange starts operation in 1981, the Bergen exchange in 1982.

Panama

First AXE ordered February 1978. On order: three digital local exchanges with a total capacity of 10,000 lines. First exchange cut-over 1980.

Saudi Arabia

The tender, issued in 1977, was the largest single contract in telecommunications history: an SPC system choice for the extension of the Saudi Arabian network. On the 25th January 1978 a consortium of L M Ericsson, Philips and Bell Canada was awarded the contract.

In addition to up-grading existing Crossbar exchanges, L M Ericsson will deliver 24 AXE digital exchanges for 183,000 subscribers and 66,720 trunks. To date, seven transit exchanges for 42,240 trunks and six local exchanges for 90,000 lines are in service. On order: 93,000 subscriber lines and 24,480 trunks.

Spain

First AXE ordered December 1977. Three digital local exchanges for 30,000 subscribers are on order. First exchange to be handed over in 1980.

Sweden

First exchange cut-over March 1977. On order: digital local exchanges for 242,000 subscribers; digital exchanges for 20,000 mobile subscribers.

United Arab Emirates

Fully-digital AXE exchanges serving over 40,000 subscribers were ordered in January 1980.

Venezuela

One local AXE exchange serving 5000 subscribers handed over December 1979.

Yugoslavia

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ICA'S POLITICAL SOLDIERY

coups which killed Tolbert in Liberia recent trend towards military government and constitution in West Africa—Africa generally. The President Tolbert's is that he was a leader at home and no in foreign policy. good intentions than lamentation, he fitted of African politics he had promised not another presidential was not—on paper a state, yet it was his the first manifesta- opposition party, responding to the hat gave it a growing but finally brought to action.

hana, Nigeria and he major excuse of for intervention is corruption. Large- scale is endemic in no government, military, has ever ough electoral or to stamp it out, some other parts of the way of life. It an explosion when a certain tolerated ican leaders never what that level is, rruption remains a destabilizing factor.

TEACHERS AND THE COMPARABILITY MACHINE

commission's report ay might have been bow up the limita- basis on which the refers to work. The ata bank of informa- of work, for use as is for settling pay ms more remote

commission turned as they thought that take advantage of more time to spare and commissioned factor plan. The as a wayward at variance with idence they had they abandoned the as a result tolerably most parties. It per cent short- ellers claimed but eading in for- can expand in in- As for the local e rate support ut last year made

NUCLEAR PROGRAMME

few weeks the as seemed on the ng drastically the ame it announced approval only ago. This had hardware con- British designed a Cooled reactor would be placed the first American reauthorized Water built in the United id be ordered in a cash to Central Electric- Board and an eading in for- electricity demand die years of the e orders for the is in jeopardy. The er called in the y Review Staff to e effects of delay on of the AGRs on industry. The CPRS t the orders should still the decision balance. After more e of hovering over e decision over e design. Britain, whether it should wn design or buy United States, it another change of vinent. We for the British. unced yesterday is

fisheries
McQuarrie, MP
East

from Mr Neil Usher ted today (March 31) ve heading is most ad shows a complete edge on the true posi- is correct when he he last Conservative epted the "cobbled- fisheries Policy on Common Market. He however, that the next ment failed to cor- when it was negotiat- entry into the Mar- succeed Buring its office which would e problem. use of Mr Usher to the 6,000 Scottish ead disaster. If they e they are hard-headed smen that they would ead with the build- ment of the fleet. The

It is unlikely that the new regime in Liberia will do more than prosecute a few wealthy and envious personalities, as in Nigeria, Ghana and elsewhere on similar occasions. The process itself will continue—and also will continue to brake the economic progress that alone can build up stable states in Africa.

It is sometimes said that the post-colonial armies have been the bane of independent Africa. They have rarely had a function except as an internal security force: ill-disciplined and ill-managed they have been a drain on impoverished economies; and they have made possible a form of caesarism which at its worst has degenerated into the terror and anarchy of Amin's regime, into destructive civil wars like that in Chad.

Yet in a one-party state, the army, reflecting the people, has been the surrogate opposition, the alternative government. African dictators can only survive if they control the army, which means they must give it—and not just its officers—fair pay and perks. Neglect of this, especially in depression and inflation, was an invitation to a coup. Those who have kept the army small and occupied (as in Kenya) or disarmed and productive (as in Ivory Coast) have fared best.

But the various military a "realistic" advance allowance for the award, at a level unspecified but probably not far from the actual amount. But some individual authorities, already thrown out in their calculations by not being able to impose transport charges, are going to find their education budgets harder than ever to balance.

The main thought behind the report is that differentials should be widened—something which is indeed desirable if the profession is to attract applicants of high quality and ambition. It also concludes that the shrinking demand for teachers is an overrated factor in the context of pay—a judgment which is more disputable.

The attempt to make comparisons was also hampered in the case of the teachers by a peculiarity in their bargaining customs. In most other employments it is normal for pay and conditions of work to be negotiated within the same machinery. The good sense of that is obvious, as pay cannot efficiently be considered in isolation from the question of what is being paid for. The teachers cherish the nebulous official concern of their duties, as it enables them to apply industrial sanctions while claiming that they are still fulfilling their contractual responsibilities. Action of this kind, involving

no more than common sense. As Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State for Energy, told the House of Commons, the continuation of the policy will not increase public spending. Allowance for both AGR stations has already been made within the White Paper on Public Spending and is included within the electricity authorities cash limits.

Cancellation or serious delay would have gone a long way to killing an independent nuclear industry. It would have meant many redundancies, particularly in the depressed Tyneside area, and could have placed the United Kingdom in the position of having to rely on an American design which has yet to receive final safety clearance or to pass successfully through the public inquiry which the government has promised.

The British reactor has not had a happy past. Its development has been dogged by indifferent design, late delivery and poor reliability. Its chances of winning export orders are now slim. The only chance of getting into the EEC market would be through licensing the American design. Powerful forces within government came to believe that rather than continue spending on a homegrown product which would forever be denied international success, the

industry have all along had support in cash terms from both governments and also from the White Fish Authority and the EEC grants from the EEC. Many of the vessels all had taken place the seas would have been fished out in a few years and where would that have landed the fishing industry. Let me assure Mr Usher that this Government is backing the fishing industry to the full. All ministers in Scotland and England who have responsibility for fishing matters are desperately trying to get a new Common Fisheries Policy out of the EEC which is acceptable to the industry. If many other industries had the tolerance, forbearance and trust

regimes in West Africa, anglophone or francophone, have never succeeded in solving the basic economic problems which they inherited along with power taken at gunpoint, even though they relied on the same bureaucratic as their predecessors. That is why they have not lasted indefinitely. The processes whereby they have been removed have varied: the basic cause of their removal has been their growing unpopularity arising out of failure. It took a Tanzanian army to oust Amin (and his own army's disloyalty), but in Ghana and Nigeria, by contrast, the army has itself re-established constitutional rule—within a notably conservative framework. The question now is whether African politicians have learned from the abundant lessons of the past decade, and will curb a lust for wealth and power that uncured inevitably generates military envy and emulation, or makes the army the only recourse of oppressed people wanting redress.

Perhaps the most hopeful outcome would be armies that left politics to politicians, administration to officials and redress to the courts, but exercised a watchful censorship over all three, while standing as the symbol of national unity in fissiparous societies. But Liberia shows that the era of coups is not yet over.

lunch supervision, extra-curricular activities with children, meetings with parents, and so on, has become increasingly common.

The Houghton report of 1974 recommended that teachers should receive a professional salary in return for a professional commitment to their work—which both sides agree (when it suits them) means much more than time-table duties. This year the teachers' negotiators accused the management of acting improperly in asking them to make a statement about conditions of service to Clegg. The commission's terms of reference excluded such matters; so it did not consider them: it simply took the actual state of affairs for granted. It notes that the teachers themselves pointed out how much of their work must be done outside the classroom, and gives great weight to a study by the National Federation for Educational Research which shows that (contrary to rumour) teachers' actual hours of work through the year are similar to those commonly worked in white-collar employment. It adds that its assessment is based through- out on the extra-curricular activities which are part of the "obligation" of teachers to pupils, parents and schools. So they are: so they should always be regarded in future, both in pay bargaining and in disputes.

When thinking of these troubles (and some others around the world) I often remind myself of Aesop's fable in which it was the kindly warmth of the sun, and not the blustering assaults of the north wind, which persuaded the man to remove his coat.

I suggest that a decent and peaceful solution of this problem is dependent on the Republic of Ireland formulating and adopting a specific political programme (referring, if appropriate, to any cooperation expected from the United Kingdom) which would make the people of Northern Ireland, or at least a substantial majority of them, content to join those of the Republic.

I submit that this is the only field in which a "political initiative" of any value can lie, and that the United Kingdom Government should say so. Yours faithfully, GEORGE C. ATTFIELD, 1 Long Close, Farnham Common, Slough, Berkshire, April 12.

From Mr Dan Del-Rivo
Sir, You write of the people of Northern Ireland being expelled from the United Kingdom. Not the least of the Nationalist would suggest that, but only that the six north-eastern counties of Ireland, of which but two have Unionist majorities, should be reunited with the other 26 counties. It would then be a free choice for the inhabitants in leave or remain and one suspects that the majority of Unionists would not in fact leave their beloved Ireland.

Yours truly, DAN O'DEL-RIVO, Wenlock, Newcastle, Suffolk, April 10.

Exodus from Cuba
From Mr Jeremy Hunt
Sir, Graham Greene (April 12) accuses the West of hypocrisy in its attitude towards Cuba's would-be emigrants and the Vietnam boat people, but he overlooks the unscrupulousness of a government that suddenly encourages exodus on such a scale.

It is no good Mr Greene talking about freedom of movement in the context, as he suggests, of Russia were to open her frontiers to all who wish to leave, then Western governments would, quite rightly, limit the numbers they were prepared to receive. But one of the reasons for the "freedom of movement" is that constructive Russian critics like Mr Medvedev ask of their own government is the right of Soviet citizens to travel abroad or without hindrance or harassment.

If that genuine freedom of movement were granted by communist regimes then the dammed-up flood of emigrés would turn into a trickle of those able to find jobs and a welcome overseas—and the West would no longer appear hypocritical in the eyes of Graham Greene. Yours faithfully, JEREMY HUNT, 18 St Michael's Road, SW9, April 13.

Coming out of care
From Lord Ranfurly
Sir, I feel that some attention needs to be drawn to the situation regarding housing accommodation in which young people coming out of care at the age of 18 find themselves.

Ulster and the Union

From Mr G. C. Attfield

Sir, Like Mr Brian Anson (April 11) I, too, am an Englishman, but I do not find his letter very helpful. In particular it seems to ignore that, although history is inescapable, what we are looking at now is a situation which, whatever its historical causes, affects actual people living in 1980.

I doubt whether many English or other British people would be greatly averse to Northern Ireland becoming an independent state or to its being united with the Republic, if either of these courses were wished of its people. Indeed, one of the objectives which can be said to be written into the constitution of the United Kingdom is the union of Northern Ireland with the Republic, if and when the people of Northern Ireland consent.

The wish of the Republic and of its people that Northern Ireland should join them is generally taken for granted, but what has seemed to me to be lacking is a reasoned argument for this union of peoples. Territorial tidiness can hardly make a virtue of its own vices. The happy state of a united Ireland was marred by British oppression, until the even more arbitrary and cruel imposition of partition, just will not stand examination.

It seemed possible that a reasoned statement might come out of the BBC Newsweek programme last Thursday evening, which was devoted to Republican views. But the only argument for unification seemed to be that it would fulfil the aspirations of certain Irish patriots, most of them long dead—not a word about advantages and disadvantages that might be expected to accrue in the here and now, and in the future, to the generality of the inhabitants of the Republic or of Northern Ireland. And although the programme was devoted to the need to reconcile differences between the respective cultures of the two areas, there were no suggestions whatever as to how this might be done.

When thinking of these troubles (and some others around the world) I often remind myself of Aesop's fable in which it was the kindly warmth of the sun, and not the blustering assaults of the north wind, which persuaded the man to remove his coat.

I suggest that a decent and peaceful solution of this problem is dependent on the Republic of Ireland formulating and adopting a specific political programme (referring, if appropriate, to any cooperation expected from the United Kingdom) which would make the people of Northern Ireland, or at least a substantial majority of them, content to join those of the Republic.

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Coming out of care
From Lord Ranfurly
Sir, I feel that some attention needs to be drawn to the situation regarding housing accommodation in which young people coming out of care at the age of 18 find themselves.

A County Council Authority having county-wide responsibility for social services does not have a responsibility for housing. This responsibility is vested within the various District Councils which come within the geographical county boundaries. Other authorities, for example the London Boroughs, are responsible for housing and also social services. Some of the latter do in fact accept a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Allies' response to Carter plea

From Mr Alan Lee Williams and Mr Joseph Godson

Sir, In commenting on President Carter's request of his allies to support him in taking economic and diplomatic measures against Iran you rightly state in your editorial (April 10) that solidarity does not necessarily require its friends "to give automatic support to all American policies." This imperative, we are sure, would also be shared by Carter. However, no sanctions will be effective if they are not supported by other major nations. Like the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan, Iran's criminal action of containment the Shah's Iran, collapsed, leaving an open breach in the containment wall, and that this sequence of events precipitated the invasion of Afghanistan. What a simple and comforting view of a complex world.

Presumably greater Western vigilance and strength in Iran would have propped up the Shah's bastion for some time more, but surely there are more fundamental reasons for the Shah's collapse. Let us not presume in 1980 that complex societies are out there waiting to be "won" or "lost" by the West, or anyone else quite so simply. The Shah's system came apart essentially because it failed to respond to the felt social, economic and political, and indeed cultural needs of a substantial segment of the Iranian people.

Our failure is to recognize that fact and to qualify our policies and actions accordingly in an increasingly plural world. Islamabad, Tehran, New Delhi and other states of the region and the non-European world, govern their internal and external relations by a logic determined by their self interest, which we are finding with some pain, may not always be the same as ours.

Finally, it is remarkable to hear Professor Halle place Russia's conquest of Afghanistan in historical perspective suggesting that it is part of a "defensive expansion based on the insecurity of a nation surrounded by enemies and lacking such natural geographic defences as are provided by coastlines or mountain ranges." From the perspective of South Asia, history and geography would suggest a rather different view.

Sincerely, WALTER HAUSER, Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge, April 11.

Extended studies
From Professor John Honey
Sir, I hesitate to cross swords with the Master of Solihull, but as a Regius Professor of Modern History he cannot be unaware of the already wider uses of the word "student" than the one he cites (April 11). His idea of the high-minded struggler, at least for knowledge, does not account for the rich legions of prominent in his own university in the eighteenth century, or the hard-drinking duellists (say) of the German universities in the nineteenth. Then think of the late 1960s in Paris, or on many American campuses, or at the L.S.U. and what we have seen of new set of conventions which bring us much closer to the captors of the United States hostages in Tehran.

Until recently British English tended to reserve the use of "student" for persons outside formal schooling, with "pupil" for school still at primary or secondary school (who had frequently been termed "scholars" before World War II). Over the past decade the American use of "student" for those still at school has made significant headway in Britain, first for sixth-formers, then for secondary school pupils generally, and now even for primary school pupils. The BBC Radio 4 item, in the programme Today last month, on the "students" at a primary school in Bolton, it is thus fair to conclude that the crowd of rioters and looters in the recent fracas at Bristol certainly contained many "students", and that they were hardly more admirable for their scholarship than the fanatics of Tehran.

Yours faithfully, JOHN HONEY, School of Education, Leicester Polytechnic, Scraptoft, Leicestershire, April 11.

The Wiener Library
From Mr Peter Galliner
Sir, I am not writing as Director of the International Press Institute but as an individual who for more than 30 years has been actively engaged and concerned with Anglo-German relations. The recent correspondence regarding the fate of the Wiener Library makes me realize that here a unique research centre was started by private initiative with no official backing in the post-war years. It has developed into a renowned centre of documentation on fascism, totalitarianism and persecution during the Hitler period. It has made a great contribution to research undertaken by social scientists, historians, politicians and others and has proved particularly useful to the younger generation—those who ultimately will form the policy in our countries.

The Institute, started by the late Dr Wiener, continued under its present Director, Walter Laqueur, who has become a very close personal figure at universities such as Georgetown, Washington, Jerusalem and others in addition to being a prolific writer on many subjects. I was able to get his first book published in the Federal Republic years ago. No doubt he has given much consideration to the future of the Wiener Library, but perhaps, as the correspondence in your column shows, Dr Laqueur has not appreciated the role which it has become an integral part of the society which still believes in human freedom and in human rights. Only such a society was able to make Dr Wiener's work a reality. His work has become an essential part in the education of future historians in Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Sincerely yours, PETER GALLINER, International Press Institute, London Secretariat, City University, 280 St John Street, EC1.

housing responsibility for young people who have been in the "care" of that particular borough and some do not. Regrettably, some authorities regard their responsibilities as having ceased on the day the young person reaches his or her eighteenth birthday and some others will continue to maintain varying degrees of care.

The London area presents social workers in incalculable problems regarding housing for young people leaving care. In the main they are not of high earning potential at 18 and the rents now being asked, even for minimal accommodation, are far above their means. Section 2 (1) (c) of the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act, 1977, stipulates a priority need for accommodation as "...vulner-

America's allies and friends as well, in no small measure due to their own narrow and short-range business as usual interests.

Yours faithfully, ALAN LEE WILLIAMS, JOSEPH GODSON, Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1, April 11.

From Dr Walter Hauser
Sir, In your issue of April 10, Professor Louis Halle argues from his staunch Eurocentric position that it was as a result of a decade of increasing weakness in the Atlantic societies, that one of the bastions of containment the Shah's Iran, collapsed, leaving an open breach in the containment wall, and that this sequence of events precipitated the invasion of Afghanistan. What a simple and comforting view of a complex world.

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Reaction to 'Death of a Princess'

From Sir Philip de Zulueta

Sir, No one disputes that freedom from outside interference with television programmes is important in ensuring freedom of speech in general. But the apparently increasing use on television of the documentary style in what are essentially fictional plays raises difficult questions. Part of the fiction with invented dialogue, actors portraying living persons, such programmes are presumably attractive to audiences but can be both distressing to individuals and misleading to the public. Yet any suggestion of removing even some particularly offensive scenes were re-buffed with references either to the freedom of the media or to the artistic integrity of the producers.

Our television companies have to be licensed and enjoy a monopoly in their areas; they are quite unlike newspapers, among which there is still a wide choice. Television companies have therefore a special duty of responsibility, especially in the days of the video tape and, soon, the bouncing satellite. They may, perhaps, have some justification in portraying British life as they see it, but they ought surely to be extremely sparing in using their monopoly to show controversial and ostensibly factual programmes about other countries through the medium of the semi-documentary.

This is not a question of censorship, such as might affect news broadcasts, but of good taste and public responsibility. Decisions in this field cannot be left to producers or programme directors, but must lie with the management of the networks, whose sense of propriety should be the case of their licencees. The undoubted financial benefits of our peculiar television licensing system.

Yours faithfully, PHILIP DE ZULUETA, Antony Gibbs Holdings Ltd, 3 Frederick's Place, Old Jewry, EC2, April 14.

From Mr G. R. Preston
Sir, This country, of course, only one of them would have been put to death. A man committing adultery with a royal princess may be guilty of treason, and the punishment for treason is death by hanging.

Yours faithfully, G. R. PRESTON, 25 Bedford Avenue, Fulham, SW6, April 11.

Discrimination in evil

From Mr Paul Sieghart

Sir, A disturbing confusion of values is becoming prevalent, and I wonder whether it troubles others of our readers too.

I have spent much of my life fighting discrimination—on the grounds of race, colour, creed, sex or any other irrelevant factor. I yield to no one in my contempt for racism, sexism or other discriminators of a like kind. But that fight is a means to an end: the true enemies are the cruelty, savagery and barbarism which some members of the human species inflict on their fellows.

No race, people, religion or sex can claim any special virtue here, even in our countries. Hitler's and Stalin's concentration camps were manned by whites, at least some of whom professed Christianity, and the Japanese prisoner-of-war camps by yellow Shintoists. Men and women are decapitated for adultery, drinkers flogged and thieves have their hands cut off, by brown Muslims. Amin and his henchmen were black. Diplomats are held hostage in Latin America and Iran—and torture is endemic in official interrogation centres throughout the black, brown, yellow and white world.

Surely we must condemn without discrimination anyone who perpetrates savage, barbarous or cruel acts, whatever the colour of his or her skin, and regardless of whether they are perpetrated in the name of the Reich, the dictatorship of the proletariat, the Heavenly Emperor, Islam, Christianity, or any other justifying symbol.

If we ourselves discriminate over that central issue, what is the point of opposing discrimination at all? Yours truly, PAUL SIEGHART, 6 Gray's Inn Square, WC1.

The cost of water

From Mr E. J. Gilliland

Sir, I really must take issue with your correspondent Mr C. E. Carrington (April 10).

Mr Carrington claims that his water charge is eight times what it was in 1974. That year he paid £22.74 for water and £21.17 for sewerage and sewage disposal, a total of £43.91.

This year we are asking him for £58.65 for water and £44.15 for sewerage, etc., a total of £102.80. In short, he is to pay 2.34 times what he paid then, not eight. That is considerably less than the impact of inflation, literally cracks into fragments.

Can he explain how this dramatic effect is achieved? It sounds much more exciting than saving a woman in half. Yours sincerely, A. J. GREENAWAY, 9 Lynton Mead, Totteridge, N20.



COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE

April 14: The Duke of Gloucester this evening visited the Goldsmiths' Silversmiths and Jewellers' Art Council of London Exhibition at the Goldsmiths' Hall and presented the prizes for the 1980 Competition of Craftsmanship and Design.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland was in attendance.

Princess Alexandra will attend a dinner at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, and will present the Krug Awards of Excellence instituted by the House of Krug to promote excellence in all fields of human endeavour on May 15.

Prince and Princess Michael of Kent will attend a British Red Cross (London) branch dinner at the Intercontinental Hotel, Park Lane, on May 8.

The Hon Mrs Nicholas Cavesdale gave birth to a second son (William George) on April 13 in Sydney.

A memorial service for Lady Margaret will be held in Salisbury Cathedral on April 21 at 2.30 p.m.

A memorial service for Mr Caradoc Prichard will be held on April 17 at St Bride's, Fleet Street, at noon.

St David's College, Llandudno

Term begins today. Carole Gonzalez remains head boy. Half-term will be from May 23 to 27. Term ends on July 5.

Campion School, Athens

Campion, the British coeducational public school in Athens, reassembled on April 14 with 1,450 pupils from 69 countries on the list. 820 in the senior school, 400 in the preparatory school and 200 in the kindergarten.

Campion has been honoured by an invitation to full membership of the Pan-Hellenic Association of Cricket Clubs—Somerset honorary coaches please note.

With Oxbridge and the Ivy Leagues warmly beckoning, the school looks forward with confidence to its 1981 move from Paleo Psychiko to a new, beautiful home in Amaroussis, next door to Paradise.

Royal Caledonian Ball

The Royal Caledonian Ball will be held at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, W.1, on Monday, May 19. Tickets at £15 each (including light refreshments to be served at midnight) are now on sale. Please apply direct to the secretary to the ball, 16 St Michael's Close, North Waltham, Basingstoke, Hampshire (Tel: Dummer 025 675) 5431.

Birthdays today

Sir Adrian Cadbury, 51; Lord Grey of Naughton, 70; Sir Peter Menzies, 68; Colonel H. E. Short, 93; Sir Leslie Smith, 61; Mr C. O. Stanley, 81; Dame Susan Walker, 74.

"Opinion Leaders" Views

What do British and European "Opinion Leaders" think about the relative importance of their institutions? What are their readership patterns? An indication is given in the summary reports of

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"European Opinion Leaders"

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Fortcoming marriages

Mr I. E. James and Miss R. A. V. Workman and Miss R. A. V. Workman

The engagement is announced between the elder son of Mr and Mrs Ray James, of Killara, Sydney, Australia, and Rosemary, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Workman, of Newington, Edinburgh.

Mr H. L. T. Langston and Miss D. J. C. Finney

The engagement is announced between the son of Mr and Mrs H. Langston, of Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire, and Deborah, elder daughter of Professor and Mrs D. J. Finney, of Edinburgh.

Mr N. G. E. Lorraine-Smith and Miss A. C. Schicht

The engagement is announced between the son of Mr and Mrs N. G. E. Lorraine-Smith, of Hackers House, Churchill, Oxfordshire, and Annabel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ernest Schicht, of Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr A. K. MacLeod and Miss S. J. McWilliam

The engagement is announced between the son of Mr and Mrs A. K. MacLeod, of Old Parish, Manse, Dunoon, and Sheila, elder daughter of the late James McWilliam and of Mrs McWilliam, of Colinton, Midlothian, Edinburgh.

Dr J. W. Mason and Dr H. S. A. Roberts

The engagement is announced between the son of Dr and Mrs J. W. Mason, of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, and Honor, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs H. S. A. Roberts, of Childer Thornton, South Wirral.

Luncheons

The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress entertained the following guests at luncheon at the Mansion House yesterday: The Very Rev. and Mrs. C. J. C. P. The Very Rev. and Mrs. C. J. C. P. The Very Rev. and Mrs. C. J. C. P.

HM Government, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a farewell luncheon given in honour of the Hon. and Mrs. J. C. P.

The Hon. and Mrs. J. C. P. were guests at a luncheon given in honour of the Hon. and Mrs. J. C. P. at the Mansion House yesterday.

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Royal Navy appointments

The following Supplementary List of officers in the Royal Navy have been selected for transfer to the General List from May 1:

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, was guest of honour at a dinner held at the Mansion House in honour of the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Italy.

The following officers have been selected for transfer to an extended medium career commission on the Supplementary List:

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Marriages

Mr M. A. J. F. Rowe and Miss S. R. Spickard

The engagement is announced between the son of Mr and Mrs M. A. J. F. Rowe, of Penderay, Cyprus, and Susan Rosemary, daughter of Rear-Admiral and Mrs D. G. Spickard, of Alderfield, Sawford, Hampshire.

Dr R. J. P. Godlee and Dr S. E. Hawthorne

The marriage took place on April 12, 1980, in Billingham Parish Church, between the son of Dr and Mrs R. J. P. Godlee, of Southgate, London, and Dr S. E. Hawthorne, of Southgate, London, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs A. E. Hawthorne, of Billingham, Yorks.

Mr P. F. Harris and Miss N. P. F. Holworthy

The marriage took place on Saturday, April 12, 1980, at All Saints, Milford-on-Sea, between the son of Mr and Mrs P. F. Harris, of the Beeches, Staines, and Miss Nicola Holworthy, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. D. Holworthy, of Lyndale, Milford-on-Sea.

Mr A. K. MacLeod and Miss S. J. McWilliam

The engagement is announced between the son of Mr and Mrs A. K. MacLeod, of Old Parish, Manse, Dunoon, and Sheila, elder daughter of the late James McWilliam and of Mrs McWilliam, of Colinton, Midlothian, Edinburgh.

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Cooks' Company

The annual dinner in honour of the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress was held last night at the Mansion House. The Master, Mr J. F. M. Wright, presided and the other speakers were the Lord Mayor, Mr J. C. D. Kenyon, Secretary, Mr J. C. D. Kenyon, Secretary, Mr J. C. D. Kenyon, Secretary.

The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress were guests at a dinner held at the Mansion House in honour of the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress.

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Chinese dish sold for £180,000

By Geraldine Norman

Sale Room Correspondent

A Chinese dish which Christie's sold in 1941 for 120 guineas returned to the same sale room yesterday and made £180,000.

The deep dish, 17½ in diameter, is decorated in under-glaze copper red with a pattern of chrysanthemums and lotus sprays. The Chinese potters encountered great difficulties with this copper red and the expert mental pieces of the fourteenth century are extremely rare.

The colour is not wholly successful on this dish and Christie's estimated £20,000 to £30,000. In the event it was bought by Yanagi, a Japanese dealer, with a private collector from Singapore as a determined underbidder.

Christie's sale was devoted to the Montagu Meyer family collection of Chinese ceramics and works of art, which totalled £70,123, with 6 per cent unsold.

The collection included a large group of Jun yao, the attractive decorated glass wares of the Sung dynasty. C. C. Lal, a Hong Kong dealer, paid the top price for a large censer at £21,000 (estimate £8,000 to £12,000).

Christie's had a second distinguished private collection for sale, the Italian maiolica collected by Wing Commander John Scott-Taggart.

He was one of the pioneers of radio and had four careers before developing his passionate interest in maiolica in the early 1930s. He was a top-notch leading maiolica scholar of his day and wrote a book on the subject. He had consigned the collection to Christie's for sale a few weeks before his death at the age of 84 last year.

A large Urn dish from his collection, decorated with a painting of Abraham receiving loaves and wine from Melchizedek, priest-king of Jerusalem, became the highest priced item of maiolica ever sold at auction when it went for £65,000 to Palm Beach and Co., dealers from Hong Kong.

The collection included a third item, a small maiolica dish painted by Giulio Buonamici with Aeneas leaving burning Troy and dated 1535; it sold for £32,000, with 10 per cent unsold. The works of art made £35,055, with 22 per cent unsold; three jewelry items which had been estimated to reach the top price failed to find buyers. At Sotheby's, the two-session sale of original portraits and works of art made £145,504, with 9 per cent unsold.

In the sale room report for April 12, it was inaccurately stated that the Chimery "View of Macao" was bought by Leggett; it was sold for £26,000 to Macdonald, Mason, another London dealer.

The first day of Sotheby's sale of silks and maps made £79,700, with 10 per cent unsold. The works of art made £35,055, with 22 per cent unsold; three jewelry items which had been estimated to reach the top price failed to find buyers. At Sotheby's, the two-session sale of original portraits and works of art made £145,504, with 9 per cent unsold.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

We'll show you a better way to build warehouses.

ATCOST

£200m turbines contract in South Africa won by GEC

By Edward Townsend

The General Electric Company has won the world's largest single contract for power station turbines. The deal, said to be worth considerably more than £200m, is for the supply of six generators to South Africa.

The contract, won despite competition from French and West German manufacturers, gives a significant boost to GEC Turbine Generators, a member of the GEC Power Engineering Group, and lifts its current order book to £850m.

Further work for the generator company was confirmed yesterday when Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, announced that the advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGCR) power stations at Torness in Scotland and Heysham in Lancashire were to go ahead. GEC is to supply the two turbine generators for the Heysham 150m, for the Scottish station.

The South African contract, now at the letter of intent stage, represents a repeat order from the country's electricity supply commission. It is for the supply and construction of six 600MW generators for a new coal-fired power station 150km south-east of Johannesburg. The unit is due to begin operating early in 1985 and the last in 1988.

Finance for the project is being arranged exclusively in the United Kingdom by Hill Samuel, the merchant bankers, and backed by the Export Credit Guarantee Department.

Mr R. J. Davidson, managing director of GEC Turbine

Generators, said yesterday that without the contract—the largest ever placed with GEC—some of the turbine company's 5,500 workers would lose their jobs. Work on the South African generators would employ about 1,000 workers for the next six years at the company's Rugby, Manchester and Stafford factories.

The units supplied to South Africa will be similar to the six already ordered for the country's Duvha power station and to those being provided for Peterhead power station for the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board, the Littlebrook power station for the Central Electricity Generating Board, and the Torness station.

With the new order, GEC will have won 80 per cent of South African contracts for turbine generators since 1975. The company said this was "a considerable achievement when it is recalled that there are 10 world competitors all competing for this business".

Depressed British demand for generators in recent years has forced GEC to look abroad for the bulk of its business. In the last five years it has won export contracts for 12,000MW worth almost £1,000m, representing 95 per cent of United Kingdom exports of turbine generators.

Less than £100m of the company's current order book is for business in Britain, most of it covering the supply of spares, repairs and rehabilitation work. The last United Kingdom order for power station generators was in 1974, for the oil-fired station at Littlebrook in London.

Grand Metropolitan declares Liggett bid plan

By Peter Wainwright

To the dismay of many City institutions Grand Metropolitan, the £640m conglomerate whose interests include Watney Mann and Truman beers, Express Dairies, Berni Inns and Peter Dominie, has now declared that it plans to make an all-out bid for the 90.5 per cent of the stock in Liggett Group Inc that it does not already own.

Grand Metropolitan bought 9.5 per cent of Liggett's common stock through the market between June 1969 and March this year at a total cost of about £30.5m. The proposed tender offer of 550 cash for every Liggett common share would involve Grand Metro-

politan in an outlay of \$415m or about £191m.

This would make the offer the biggest takeover by Grand Metropolitan since the £400m battle for the Watney brewing combine in 1972.

Last night Mr Stanley Grinstead, managing director and successor-elect to Mr Maxwell Joseph as chairman, said: "Liggett is the United States distributor of our J & B Rare Scotch whisky, the biggest selling Scotch whisky in the United States. We want to protect our distributorship."

"We estimate that even though we will have to borrow money, we will still increase earnings a share at the indicated bid price. The bid will obviously raise borrowings

as a proportion of shareholders' funds to around 50 per cent, but we do not envisage this enduring."

"We will keep an open mind about what interests of Liggett's we keep and what we will eventually sell."

The tender offer will start on April 21 if Grand Metropolitan can surmount various American legal hurdles. Its purchase of Liggett shares was blocked at 9.5 per cent by a court order in North Carolina on the ground that it had not met requirements. However, yesterday it seemed that the way was clear for an offer when disclosure documents were taken to the North Carolina court.

Speculation over Liggett's future started at least a year ago when its tobacco interests were understood to be up for sale. However, the group which also handles the Pepsi Cola franchise has already made it clear that it is strongly opposed to Grand Metropolitan's infiltration.

Last night the company said it had no comment but would say something today.

Grand Metropolitan added that its offer is also conditional on approval by its own shareholders at a meeting to be held soon. This will be a key test of City reaction.

In late dealings Grand Metropolitan's shares fell back from 129p to 124p and dealers were saying that they could fall further today.



Sir Maxwell Joseph, retiring chairman of Grand Metropolitan.

Former cigarette giant pins its hopes on drinks sector

Washington, April 14.—Grand Metropolitan is chasing an American conglomerate in a state of considerable change.

The Liggett group, which has its headquarters in New Jersey, is striving to move rapidly away from its traditional business of cigarettes, as it and others in the same sector have come to realize changes in smoking habits will probably lead to lower demand.

The group achieved sales of more than \$1,000m (£458.7m) last year. However, in spite of

an increase of \$125m to \$1,000m net earnings declined by \$3m to \$53.9m. The company's working capital fell by about \$70m last year to \$277.7m and its long-term debt fell by £3m to \$171.710m. Its ratio of current assets to current liabilities on December 31 was 3.1 to 1.

The biggest income sector for the group is its wines and spirits division. It has a number of subsidiaries involved in distilling, importing and distribution, with one holding the exclusive United States rights

to J & B Rare America's largest selling Scotch whisky.

The operating income of this division has grown by more than \$10m to more than \$39m in the last five years, although the 1979 results were \$4m below the 1978 level.

Almost noteworthy in its reports is that sales of several years have jumped sharply although operating income performance has been far less spectacular.

In its efforts to restructure and broaden its product base

the Liggett group has gone through a turbulent time and its reports are full of accounts of purchases and sales of companies.

It failed last year to sell its cigarette operations and in its latest report on shareholders issued on March 28, Mr Raymond Mulholland, the company's president, declared that the company would continue its aggressive approach of making additional acquisitions to further diversify its business.

In its pet foods sector, for example, which includes Alpo, the largest-selling brand of dog food in the United States, sales over the past five years have risen by almost \$30m to \$204m, but operating income has gained just \$1.5m to \$15.6m.

The area of fastest expansion has been that of soft drinks, where the company started from scratch in 1977 and now has important Pepsi Cola bottling franchises in the United States. Sales have grown over the last two years from \$7m to \$133.9

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Zone could revitalize part of Manchester

By R. W. Shakespeare

Northern Industrial Correspondent

One of the Government's proposed enterprise zones in the Trafford Park and docks area of Manchester could do wonders to revitalize an area of the city which has been a centre for huge private investment in former times, Mr David Wilson, retiring president of Manchester Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday.

Mr Wilson, a banker, said that Manchester would have to make its case strongly. In the past the city had failed to make an impact on Whitehall because other parts of the country had put their case forward more effectively.

He gave warning against too much dependence on the Government to produce "quick and immediate remedies to problems" and said: "It is as we have learned a grave mistake to be hooked on the drug of state aid either directly or indirectly."

"The dependency syndrome has been one of the main causes of our ills. The question now is whether a sudden reversal of these policies is best for a proper and orderly return to economic sanity."

Mr Alan Mack, the chamber's director, reporting a membership increase to three thousand during the past year, said that the chamber had brought in millions of pounds worth of business, and its trade inquiries department had handled more than 35,000 enquiries from overseas.

Bowring board approves takeover offer by Marsh & McLennan worth 175p a share

By Richard Allen

Insurance Correspondent

Marsh & McLennan of the United States, the world's biggest insurance broker, has almost certainly won its battle for control of C. T. Bowring, the broking, banking and finance group, with an improved offer worth around 175p a share.

The cash and share offer, which comprises with a current value of 162p for the original bid, has won the full approval of the Bowring board.

This represents a dramatic turnaround in the Bowring camp, which until the weekend had been bitterly opposed to the American group's takeover ambitions.

Explaining the capitulation last night, Mr Gil Cooke, managing director of Bowring said that the board had felt it necessary to reassess its position after the Office of Fair Trading's decision not to refer the bid to the Monopolies Commission.

Mr Gil Cooke: four Bowring directors on Marsh board.

By Richard Allen

Insurance Correspondent

Marsh & McLennan of the United States, the world's biggest insurance broker, has almost certainly won its battle for control of C. T. Bowring, the broking, banking and finance group, with an improved offer worth around 175p a share.

The cash and share offer, which comprises with a current value of 162p for the original bid, has won the full approval of the Bowring board.

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Silver market turmoil leaves no casualties

From Frank Vogl

Washington, April 14

No American dealing company or brokerage house has found itself in financial difficulties as a result of the recent turmoil in the silver markets, according to Mr Harold Williams, chairman of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

The statement came at a hearing before a subcommittee of the House of Representatives investigating the recent events, their causes and consequences.

The markets were hurled into chaos in late March when news spread that Mr Nelson Bunker Hunt and Mr William Herbert Hunt were unable to meet \$100m (£45.7m) in silver future margin calls.

For time it looked as if Bache and Company, one of the top five United States brokerage companies, could face acute problems, but today Mr Williams said specifically that Bache, Engelhard Minerals and other firms, appeared to have come through their silver dealings with the Hunt family

"without a continuing threat to their financial viability."

Tomorrow the members of the Commodities Futures Commission will testify before the congressional committee and will be pressed to explain how the Hunt could have accumulated so much silver that the stability of financial markets could be so tested.

The commissioners may also be pressed to outline the steps they intend to take to ensure this does not happen again.

Mr Williams said that the Securities and Exchange Commission knows of no public company in any part of the silver business now in danger as a result of the market chaos. He said that actions taken by the brokerage houses, which included in some instances swift liquidation of parts of the portfolios of the Hunt brothers, have cut sharply the level of exposure of houses now dealing in the silver markets.

Mr Williams said for that reason he did not expect that the securities markets would be likely to experience any after-effects from the recent upheaval.

Government wage bill up by 25pc

Continued from page 1

increase with previously announced cash limits, the fact that public sector workers would get such a sharp increase this financial year would have a damaging effect.

One MP pointed out that private employers were facing new demands for higher wages from their workers because of the big pay rises going to the public sector. Other MPs argued this was another example of public sector workers doing much better during a recession than others in the rest of the economy.

Sir Geoffrey stressed that most of the large increases had been made to eliminate distortions caused by previous incomes policies. He said increases in public sector pay ought not to be used as a precedent for public pay rises.

He also tried to show that the private sector was not performing conspicuously better

than the Government during the current year.

After being quizzed on civil service pay, Sir Geoffrey attempted to reassure committee members that government plans based on a range of improvements in nationalized industry finances were realistic.

He said that of the proposed turnaround over the next four years, 25 per cent would come from raising prices for electricity and gas, 40 per cent would come from cutting out losses in industries such as steel, coal, shipbuilding and the railways, and the remainder would come from miscellaneous improvement.

Sir Geoffrey's projections were met with disbelief by many members of the committee, including Mr Edward Le Cann, the chairman. There is likely to be further questioning of the Government on its nationalized industry plans.

Scepticism was also expressed by committee members about the Treasury esti-

mates of likely Government revenue from North Sea oil.

Most outside assessments suggest that these are much too low.

Treasury officials seem to concede that their figures may be based on lower estimates of likely future production than those made by most commentators. On this, and on the likely impact of Government plans on the corporate sector, the committee got little new detail either from Treasury officials or from the Chancellor.

Treasury officials had earlier refused to give their own internal forecasts of unemployment, but did concede that the 8.5 million figure, assumed in the White Paper on public spending, was probably too low. They also confirmed their earlier estimates that manufacturing output might drop by 44 per cent this year and another 10 per cent a year in the years to come.

8 million employees) shows that half the pay deals are for 15 per cent or less with the other half settling at more than 15 per cent. In fact, 30.2 per cent have negotiated pay rises of between 16 per cent and 20 per cent; a further 15 per cent have had pay rises of between 21 per cent and 25 per cent; and 1.3 per cent have had increases of over 25 per cent.

Employers frequently complain that the media influences earnings expectations by always highlighting high wage figures. Certainly, the 20 per cent increase awarded to 230,000 miners at the start of the pay round received more publicity than the 51 per cent accepted by employees at one of Talbot's Coventry plants.

That there have been wide variations in settlement levels is borne out by the CBI databank figures for private company and public sector agreements which range from 2 per cent to 32 per cent.

Although no clear average earning figure is emerging yet, employers and politicians alike can take some comfort from the fact that both sets of statistics agree in indicating some slow-down towards the end of the pay round.

The 400-strong council of the CBI is expected to express anxiety when it discusses pay at its monthly meeting tomorrow. Viewed against stagnant production, even if the eventual percentage increase is as low as 15 per cent, it will still be considered too high to be healthy.

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Lucas Aerospace, Europe's

Lucas wins US helicopter systems order

By Clifford Webb

Midland Lymington, Cor

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CBI and government statistics add up to a difference of opinion

Pay rises certainly running in double figures

No one doubts that wages are rising—the question is by how much. When it comes to fixing on a figure, the Confederation of British Industry and the Department of Employment agree to differ.

The CBI's latest survey suggests that the majority of rises are for 15 per cent or less, whereas the last reading from the Government's official earnings statistics increases of 20 per cent.

There are a number of answers to the riddle. For a start the indicators cover different periods. The CBI's statistics are measured from last August while the Government takes January as the base.

Unfortunately for the validity of the Governments' index, the earnings figures for last

January were artificially depressed by the road haulage dispute and by the lateness of settlements generally. While this has made the department's year-on-year reading higher than it would otherwise have been, opinions vary as to whether it has been counterbalanced by the steel strike.

On the other hand, the CBI is so anxious not to set a "going rate" that the presentation of its findings is heavily muffled to disguise trends. There is also an understandable tendency in the propaganda associated with the few statistics it does reveal to stress the lower rather than the higher settlement figures.

Scrutiny of the survey based on a sample taken from pay settlements affecting about

8 million employees) shows that half the pay deals are for 15 per cent or less with the other half settling at more than 15 per cent. In fact, 30.2 per cent have negotiated pay rises of between 16 per cent and 20 per cent; a further 15 per cent have had pay rises of between 21 per cent and 25 per cent; and 1.3 per cent have had increases of over 25 per cent.

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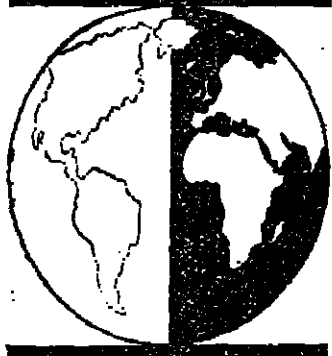
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No sign of W. German recession

There is no concrete evidence that the West German economy will slide into recession this year despite rising oil prices and world political problems, according to Herr Otto Wolff von Amerongen, president of the German Chamber of Industry and Trade.

Opec meeting delayed

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has delayed its extraordinary meeting to be held in Saudi Arabia by two days until May 7.

Arab capital increased

The Arab Monetary Fund is to increase its authorized capital by \$50m (£23m) to \$1,100m. The increase is being provided by Iraq.

Korean deficit grows

South Korea's current account deficit widened to \$1,479m (£678m) in the first quarter of this year compared with \$959m a year ago.

Australian surplus

Australia's trade surplus rose to A\$278m (£139m) in March from A\$32m a year earlier.

Italian trade balance

Italy's foreign trade deficit was 1,256,000m lire (£572m) in February, the fourth successive month in which it exceeded 1,000,000 lire.

Japan oil purchases

Japanese oil companies and trading houses obtained 8.68 million barrels of spot crude oil in February, equal to 40 per cent of the world spot market.

Latin American loans

The Inter American Development Bank has approved a record \$2,050m (£940m) in loans for economic development projects in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Chinese talks

Mr Robert McNamara, the World Bank president, held talks in Peking with Mr. Gu Mu, the Chinese Vice-Premier and one of the nation's leading experts on financial matters.

Iran oil output falls

Iran's oil output will be nearly 500,000 barrels a day lower in the coming year according to figures quoted by Mr Ali Akbar Moftari, the oil minister.

Renault truck project

The truck division of Renault has formed a subsidiary with two Portuguese companies to build an assembly and distribution plant in Portugal. It should produce 1,000 trucks a year by about 1985.

EEC steel case

The EEC has a strong case to contest US steel's anti-dumping complaint, Viscount Etienne Davignon, the EEC industry commissioner said.

Frankfurt bank

Berliner Handels und Frankfurter Bank expects 1980 to be more difficult than 1979. Write-downs in 1980 could equal or exceed those of last year, and in the first quarter of this year BHF Bank's interest margins, have been further squeezed, a spokesman said.

While Rome crumbles Italians salvage Egyptian temples on the Nile Latin engineers build a name for themselves

Rome is crumbling, Venice is sinking and the tower of Pisa is leaning more precariously each year so it is ironic that the most remarkable of all archaeological salvage tasks in Egypt should have been completed by Italy's leading civil engineering company.

Condottie Mazzi Estero is now negotiating the final payment for its removal of the ancient Egyptian temples from the submerged island of Philae in between the old and new Aswan dams and their reconstruction 600 yards away on a newly levelled island on the Nile.

The contract, worth about £4m at today's prices, has only been marginally profitable for Condottie, but in job satisfaction for its engineers and in international prestige the company says that its value has been immeasurable.

This success is causing certain voluble sectors of the Italian community to ask: "If Condottie can save these ancient Egyptian temples why can't it do something about Italy's own historic remains?"

Condottie agrees that the Philae contract has added archaeological skills to its existing technical expertise which would enable it to carry out such work in Italy, but it is anxious to avoid becoming involved in a political argument about Italian government and local authority attitudes towards the restoration of historical sites.

Signor Maurizio Foschi, Condottie's technical director of overseas operations, said: "It is not for us as a company to come

forward with proposals. We could certainly carry out the work, but it is for the government, state and local, to decide what is to be done."

Condottie, which normally builds dams, railways, docks and harbours, power stations and office and housing complexes, won the contract for the rebuilding of the Philae temples from Unesco and the Egyptian Government in the face of international competition.

Signor Foschi said "Despite the uniqueness of the contract we experienced no major problems. There were no accidents on the site and the careful way the Egyptian labourers work meant that only two out of 40,000 blocks of stone that had to be removed, stored and then rebuilt in the original sequence were slightly damaged."

After the original island of Philae had been surrounded by a coffer-dam and pumped dry the Italian company first had to discover the techniques used by the Egyptians when the temples were first built by Pharaoh Nectanebo I in 380 BC.

Professor Giovanni Toppo from the National School of Archaeology in Rome joined Condottie. He devised a method of transferring the blocks of stone that could easily be understood by the Nubian workmen as well as Condottie's engineers.

During the dismantling and storing of the blocks the new site on the island of Agilkia was prepared by blasting away thousands of tons of granite.

Fluctuation of the water level caused by the building of the new Aswan dam in the

1960s threatened Philae with erosion; it was a Russian-built plant left over from the construction that enabled the work to be done with less effort, if not less care, than when the huge blocks of granite were originally carved.

As the final granite block was lowered into place on top of one of the four imposing pylon towers in the Temple of Isis the final margin of error was found to be less than one millimetre. The temples have added to their remarkable history by becoming a monument to the skills of the civil engineer.

But Condottie, now in its centenary year and operating under the Italian state holding company umbrella, finds it has a far more lucrative contract under threat in Iran.

A £50m contract for a new port complex at Bandar Abbas has suffered interruptions and delays which threaten profitability. Work has resumed, but if lobbying the Italian Government not to join the United States in economic sanctions against Iran fail, Condottie could eventually face a huge loss on the contract.

Signor Foschi and his colleagues at Condottie admit that the Philae contract and the Bandar Abbas project have nothing in common in engineering or financial complexity. They also admit that the "Philae effect" being talked about in Italy (a reference to the prestige element of the Egyptian contract) will be of little benefit in Iran.

David Young

Flag of convenience likely to remain

By Michael Baily
Shipping Correspondent

The coup in Liberia is being watched closely by the world shipping community, which has turned this small West African state with virtually no shipping of its own into the world's largest merchant marine since the war.

A decision by the new regime to close its open registry or flag of convenience facilities would cause a major upheaval as shipping lines of all nationalities—particularly American—scrambled to put their vessels under some other tax-free flag. There were no immediate signs of this happening yesterday.

According to Liberia's New York office, it was business as usual in Monrovia following an interview by Mr Gerald Cooper, the United States Commissioner for Maritime Affairs, with the finance minister of the new government.

In London, out of which many Liberian-registered ships operate, precipitate action by the new regime was regarded as unlikely. Since 1948 the Liberian fleet has grown from two ships of 800 tons to 2,470 ships totalling 82 million tons, representing a fifth of the world fleet of 413 million tons gross.

Revenue from this activity amounts to about \$12m a year

or 14 per cent of Liberia's GNP. The question is whether the new regime will be prepared to sacrifice this benefit for the sake of keeping in with African neighbours which are opposed to flags of convenience. But a move by Unctad (United Nations Committee on Trade and Development) to have these flags banned was postponed earlier this year without reaching a conclusion.

If Liberia was to shut down on maritime activities there would be no question of confiscation, because shipowners flying the Liberian flag do not have any assets there. The registration process normally takes place in New York.

Liberia is not only the largest but the most advanced of the flags of convenience, with five regional offices (New York, London, Rotterdam, Piraeus and Hongkong) and 180 part-time inspectors in ports around the world. Panama would be the next choice of many owners if Liberia closed down, with Bermuda, Hongkong and many other tax havens from which to choose.

Liberia's biggest individual owner is Sir Y. K. Pao's World-wide Shipping Group, with over 15 million deadweight tons registered in Monrovia. "Today it is not an issue," a London spokesman said. "If the news arose, we would study the various possible alternatives."

Ex-chairman unable to pay £1.7m debt CBI team to investigate rate burden

Mr Derek Barnes, former chairman and principal shareholder of Northern Development (Holdings), the house-building group now in the hands of a receiver, may face bankruptcy proceedings because he cannot pay a £1,780,000 judgment debt. The High Court was told yesterday.

The judgment was obtained in the High Court last month by Williams & Glyn's Bank, which claimed repayment of personal loans made to Mr Barnes in 1972 and 1974.

Mr Barnes, 43, of Read, near Burnley, Lancashire, was yesterday granted an extension until June 1 to lodge an appeal. Mr Stanley Brodie, QC, for Mr Barnes, told Mr Justice Gibson that Mr Barnes could not afford to pay the debt. But if his appeal succeeded he would have sufficient assets to make an arrangement with his creditors.

Mr Michael Crystal, for Williams & Glyn's, said the bank was anxious to preserve its status under the Bankruptcy Act. Subject to this, if Mr Barnes lodged a notice of appeal by June 1, it would not resist an application by him to adjourn any pending bankruptcy proceedings until after the appeal had been heard. Mr Barnes continued an undertaking not to dispose of personal assets and the bank agreed not to execute judgment against those.

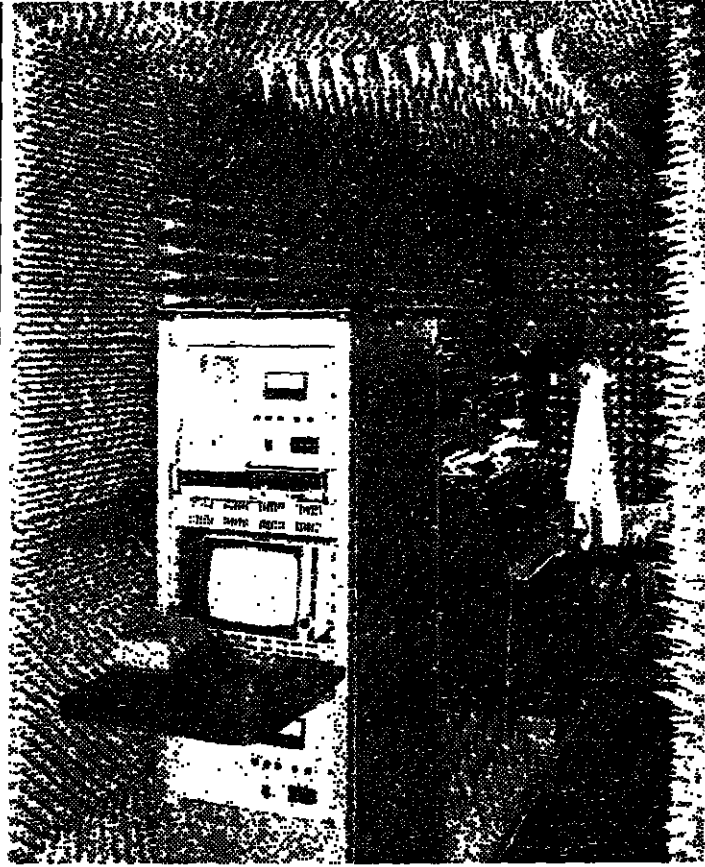
By Clifford Webb
Midland Industrial Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry has set up a "task force" of financial experts from big companies to investigate the budget of the West Midlands County Council after increasing criticism of the authority's spending.

Mr Stephen Rankin, the CBI's West Midlands regional director, said yesterday: "Councils have to realize that industry nationally pays £4,000m in rates and it runs into hundreds of millions in the West Midlands county."

"Recent giant steps in rates have made life even more difficult for already hard-pressed companies and it is time to get to grips with each other's problems." He said that the team led by Mr David Richards, finance director of Delta Rod, wanted to be constructive in its approach, so it was also offering to put its expertise at the disposal of the county council.

"We are hoping that both industry and the ratepayer will get something out of this." Local authorities had to understand that industry's rate fund was not a bottomless pit. Last night a CBI spokesman said: "We understand that the county council will be making facilities available to us to inspect the appropriate figures."



Reminiscent of an Iron Maiden torture chamber, the spikes in this chamber at the National Physical Laboratory are intended to deaden unwanted echoes from microwave radiation. The anechoic chamber, for calibrating microwave radiation monitors, is among new facilities to be opened officially tomorrow.

Integrated System X promises a smoother telephone future

Two of the new facilities which the Post Office's forthcoming System X digital telephone network will provide were demonstrated in London yesterday—abbreviated dialling and diversion of calls from one number to another. But the main significance of the new system, Post Office executives indicated, lay in its integrated nature.

Responding to the way in which the communications needs of society are changing, the new network of the 1980s and 1990s will be a single system able to carry voice or data or facsimile, as required.

System X refers to the family of computer-controlled telephone exchanges, ranging in size from the very small to the very large; the overall network is now called the integrated services digital network (ISDN).

Mr John Martin, director of System X development at the Post Office, said that the system offered three main benefits.

First, the digital System X exchanges, when coupled with digital transmission, would give better-quality speech reproduction and a "more noise-free" connection. Secondly, with no moving parts in the switchgear, reliability would be greater.

Thirdly, since the system used stored programme control (computer control), more "intelligence" was available which again could be used to improve reliability.

The extra facilities for the user are the type of service that has begun to become familiar to business users of the new digital private automatic branch exchanges (PABXs). Abbreviated dialling enables a subscriber to call certain numbers by simply dialling one or two digits. Repeated calling of a number which might be engaged at the first attempt can also be done automatically by a short code.

Numbers can be stored for later use. Prearranged reminder calls can be handled automatically. Call barring enables certain categories of calls to be unable to be dialled (exceptions could be local calls and 999 calls for example).

Call diversion enables a subscriber to be "followed" telephonically to another number, after details have been keyed in by the subscriber. Call waiting enables a subscriber to be offered a second call while already engaged on an earlier call. Three-party services enable three-way conversations to be held.

The Post Office recognizes that some of these techniques will be strange to users accustomed to the fairly basic service which has been offered so far. Thus guidance through the new techniques is provided—and this guidance will be pro-

vided, step-by-step as the call-making progresses, by recorded voice instructions.

Cure for drill vibrations

Recent investigations by the British Hydromechanics Research Association (BHRA), at Cranfield, into the cause of drill-pipe vibrations on the British Gas drilling rig offshore Mercury have led to the adoption of helical strakes to eliminate vortex shedding as one element of the overall solution.

The vibrations were experienced last year when the rig was operating 21 miles off the south coast of England in 61 metres of water. In tidal currents running at about three knots, the whole drilling mechanism was vibrating in synchronisation with the drill-pipe oscillation.

British Gas is the only contractor to drill in the English Channel for hydrocarbons.

Low-frequency vibrations occur in deeper water of 1,000 ft and can have the same effect as higher-frequency generated vibrations on shorter drilling below 150 ft. Together with researches from other organizations such as Glasgow University and BHRA, produced the eventual solution (including a change in geometry of the 30-inch diameter drill) which was successfully tested on the drilling rig Dyrbyetta.

Checking microwave monitors

The National Physical Laboratory at Teddington, Middlesex, is extending its industrial services to include the calibration and testing of microwave power meters. This will enable manufacturers and users of microwave equipment to have their exposure monitors checked against reliable and international standards. A facility which has not previously been available in the United Kingdom.

The new microwave laboratory at NPL is to be used officially tomorrow during a demonstration for users and makers of microwave equipment. It has two anechoic chambers, one of which is fully screened inside which the instruments to be checked are subjected to precisely known microwave fields.

By checking the accuracy of the commercially available monitors, it will be possible to ensure that any leakage or stray fields from microwave equipment lie within the various national and international health and safety limits.

Kenneth Owen and Bill Johnstone

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EEC contributions and French opinion

From Mrs E. J. Forbes
Robertson

Sir, While I seldom agree with political pronouncements emanating from France, I do have a grudging agreement with President Giscard d'Estaing's opinion of Britain's contribution over EEC budget contributions.

When Royal Assent was given to the European Communities Bill on October 17, 1972, the United Kingdom joined an economic and customs federation which, after transitional stages, is funded by a contribution of 1 per cent of the total VAT collection by member countries; and by the collection of excise duties on agricultural products, which form part of CAP regimes, imposed from third countries (ie, non EEC member countries). It is this latter contribution which has raised so much political

stream in Britain over the past three years. Therefore it is worth considering what the United Kingdom can do about the situation without changing any of the EEC rules.

Firstly, the United Kingdom could reverse its policy on indirect taxation and reduce the VAT rate and hence its contribution to the EEC (a policy that I would not favour).

Secondly, the United Kingdom could import more of its needs for agricultural products from the EEC, thus reducing the amount of excise duty payable to the EEC, which would also have the effect of reducing the cost of support of some commodities that are in structural surplus in the EEC. The main reasons for not so doing are historic trade links with Commonwealth countries (import of butter from New Zealand and cane sugar from the West Indies) and a British propensity for bread made with a high proportion of North American hard wheat. Thus a large proportion of British excise duty contributions to the EEC can be regarded either as a direct subsidy to Common-

wealth countries or as a payment to keep similar EEC produced commodities off the European market.

Lastly, let us review how government expenditure in support of British agriculture has been affected by EEC policies since 1974. The following table has been extracted from the March 27, 1980, issue of the *Financial Times* (figures quoted are at 1973 survey prices):

Government Expenditure	1974/75 (£m)	1979/80 (£m)
Agriculture, fisheries and forestry	2,484	944
EEC contributions	13	919

This shows that government spending on British agriculture has decreased by £1,540m, and that (since the end of the transitional stages of United Kingdom budget contributions) the United Kingdom has moved from a net recipient of EEC funds to being a net contributor of £919m per year. However, government expenditure on these two items is not £620m less than in 1974/75, although it must be conceded that the contribution of £919m is a foreign exchange loss.

It should also be noted that a study conducted by the last government showed that if Britain were to return to its traditional deficiency payment scheme of support of its agriculture, the total cost would be about £1,000m at 1978 survey prices (say, £1,250m at 1979 prices).

I have yet to hear these facts expressed by any British politician and wonder whether the contention over British EEC contributions are being fairly represented.

Yours faithfully,
ELSPETH FORBES-ROBERTSON,
West Barn, Somerset, Hampshire SO3 1PJ, April 6.

Lavish annual reports

From Mr A. P. Blair

Sir, I have lately received from one of the big five banks a copy of their annual report. Each contains 48 pages and includes 14 coloured photographs of senior officials and of various sponsored activities unrelated to the bank's business. One copy weighs five ounces and while rather more than 100,000 individual shareholders, this represents a consumption of some 15 tons of paper.

In the same week the report of one of our largest industrial groups also arrived. It weighed only three ounces and contained only 36 pages and nine coloured photographs; but it has 500,000 shareholders—a consumption therefore of some 45 tons of paper.

Such "prestige" presentation of the annual report is of fairly recent growth but has

now spread to almost every public company of any size. Apart from the cost of production, the overall consumption of paper, largely imported, cannot be insignificant.

Are such lavish productions desirable, or indeed desired by shareholders large and small? Or are they just a waste of shareholders' money and of natural resources?

If companies feel that they must continue to make such glossy self-advertisement available, could they not send to shareholders—with the obligatory notice of their annual general meeting—a slip to be returned by those who did desire a copy—and limit their print-order to the demand so revealed?

Yours faithfully,
A. P. BLAIR,
10 Ravenshoe Road, Cambridge.

Women and management

From Mr John P. J. Kenney

Sir, Mr Wood's experience (April 8) that industry gives little support to women on management development courses is at variance with my own.

Notwithstanding the economic difficulties of the last decade, major United Kingdom companies have increased their investment in the development of women managers via Ealing College's industry-based BA in Business Studies (Sandwich) course. In 1969, 7 per cent of the students were women and 93 per cent men, but by 1979 the ratio had changed to 31 per cent women and 69 per cent men.

At the 200 undergraduates on the course are sponsored by a company for the full four years of the programme and, on graduating, they are invariably appointed to executive positions in their sponsoring companies.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KENNEY,
Head, School of Business and Management,
Ealing College of Higher Education,
Woodlands Avenue,
Acton, London W3 9DN,
April 10.

AMERICAN TRUS COMPANY LIMITED

Summary of the report for the year ended 31 January 1980.

- Net asset value per equity share at 31 January 1980 was 65.3p compared with 60.6p last year.
- The directors recommend total dividends per equity share of 1.85p compared with 1.55p last year.
- The North American emphasis of the portfolio, which had been in percentage terms following the dismantling of exchange controls, was restored by a shift of approximately £4 million from sterling to dollar investments.
- The company's commitment to the oil and oil service sectors was substantially during the year, partly due to the appreciation in market value of the investment in The Edinburgh Securities Company Limited, which has interests in small oil exploration and production companies as well as participations in oil and gas exploration.
- The principal policy objectives of the company are:
 - (i) Emphasis on investment in North America.
 - (ii) The provision to shareholders of long-term growth of income.
 - (iii) Readiness to have sizeable commitments in small or unquoted companies where there are grounds for confidence in long-term prospects.

Copies of the report and accounts may be obtained from the manager secretaries, Edinburgh Fund Managers Ltd., at 4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7JB, where the annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday, 6 April 1980, at 12.15 p.m.

Broadstone Investment Trust Limited

Managed by J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited

The Annual General Meeting was held at 120 Cheapside, London EC2 on Monday, 14 April, 1980 at 2.30 p.m.

The following is a summary of the Report by the Directors for the year ended 31 December, 1979.

	1979	1978	% Change
Total Revenue	£1,875,285	£1,586,280	+18.2%
*Revenue after taxation and expenses	£1,089,445	£824,677	+32.1%
Earnings per Ordinary Share (see below)	768p	588p	+30.6%
Ordinary dividends for the year net per share	735p	570p	+28.9%
Net asset value per 20p Ordinary Share	194.0p	201.4p	-3.7%

The earnings per ordinary share reflect non-recurring income from the Company's holdings in Shell Transport & Trading Limited and Unilever Limited as a result of the removal of dividend restraint, amounting to £148,817 net. As the Directors considered that the benefit of this income should be passed on directly to the shareholders at the earliest opportunity, a special dividend of 1.00p per share has been declared on the Ordinary Capital, absorbing £138,555, and is included in the dividends per share above.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretaries, J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited, 48 St. Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4EL.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Glaxo's bitter medicine

It promising jam tomorrow: but it is being asked to swallow bitter pills today. As against out-comes ranging upwards of £35m, ax profits in fact amounted to a more than 56m down on the corresponding period last year: the 40 per cent increase in the dividend nor the promise of better in the second half could save it from falling 16p to 226p.

It is that the group's drugs are out of phase. There is no to come from the existing of the cephalosporins, which are m competition. But the new still absorbing money, rather ing either turnover or profits, cease of only 6 per cent to all-time sales (excluding the division, and another decline which have dropped by a third five years.

Another year of reduced profits the promise of jam tomorrow go sour. Glaxo directors expect to revert to its normal trading year, and make more in the but failing a major break the new drugs in the United n't likely to mean more than overall, as against £72.27m in final payment would leave he shares short of 6 per cent; is likely to be exiguous; and most certainly have further to

national investors are reported flush with cash at the moment as to be enough domestic and around to chase the gilt mar- the Government Broker had ciling the remainder of the re trading started yesterday

reckoned there was £100m stock remaining and buyers own to about 30 per cent of ms. The scene looks set now the new long stock on Thurs- problem facing the authori- port-term may well be that of r the market's enthusiasm when they will want to limit ause to the continuing tight- banking system and money

low signs of over enthusiasm eeks, it will be on their own ver extended market is the authorities will want to have they move towards the final king "corset".

opolitan

United States courts in its e the stake in the Liggett own pace by steady share e market. Grand Metropol- ing to go the whole hog by ale cash tender offer for the igarette and drinks concern reholders accept would cost id \$415m (£192m).

as been casting around and as acquisition for some time dependence on the United t, where some 90 per cent tied up clear, however, how much been pushed into a corner nt attitude of Liggett to the United Kingdom group was rest in it. The original aim much more limited since only interested in the Austin subsidiary with whom it had ading links.

that Grand Met would sell- s non-drinks interests have States management into a lge by its rearward action ws that the United Kingdom : up a 3 per cent interest nd Met has got a fight on

s in the United States, par- involving foreigners, are icult to win. And Grand have trouble convincing its at the deal is in its best Liggett is hardly the sort of even Imperial could claim was, with the bid having a than offensive flavour, a steadily withdrawing from siness, using the proceeds to rinks, and there must be

some concern at Grand Met that the trading links with Liggett, which handles its im- portant J & B whisky in the United States, could be severed.

Meanwhile, last year's £78m rights issue, which cut group gearing by a third to 42 per cent and which is still largely unused provides Grand Met with the balance sheet muscle to countenance a bid of this size, and despite the high cost of borrowing at the moment Grand Met maintains that there will be no earnings dilution either.

Bowing/M & M All friends now

It is not surprising perhaps that Marsh & McLennan has not had to raise its sights by much to turn the open hostility of the Bowring board into positively beaming acceptance. After all Bowring's hopes of fending off the bid were all but dashed when the OFT decided against a Monopolies Commission reference.

The new offer is only 5p or 6p above the value of the original offer before dollar weakness and Wall Street performance began to erode the sterling equivalent, although Bowring shareholders will also be entitled to the final dividend of 61p gross.

Even so the 175p value of the offer, more than 12 times last year's earnings, looks a good price to accept at a time when the outlook for insurance brokers is far from bright. The cash element this time is nominated in sterling and so not exposed to the vagaries of exchange movements. But the M&M share price has been jumping all over the place in recent weeks and the market is probably not being over-cautious in marking Bowring 18p below the current value at 157p.

On a wider view Marsh's success will have dramatic repercussions on the London insurance market if not the banking scene, given that Marsh is likely to be forced by the Accepting Houses Committee to divest itself of Singer & Friedlander.

Marsh/Bowring will cut such a massive swathe in world markets that defensive transatlantic alliances involving other groups are certain to follow although few other American groups have the financial muscle to copy M&M's takeover style.

Meanwhile, with this bid the Americans have a foot firmly in the door at Lloyd's, which in current world insurance conditions can seemingly do little to halt United States ascendancy.

Pierce domestic competition is already causing the flow of United States premiums into London to splutter and Lloyd's traditionally taking half its business from America is not in a good position to upset leading purveyors like M&M.

American domination of Lloyd's is no longer just a long-term threat.

STC Up to expectations

Standard Telephones and Cables has proved a fine investment for those who obtained a slice of the action last June, when the group came to the market through the heavily over-subscribed offer for sale at 160p.

Yesterday's results showing a 24 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £33.4m were broadly in line with expectations and the shares closed 7p higher at 271p. But yielding 4.2 per cent and selling on a fully-taxed multiple of almost 17, they look rather expensive on fundamental grounds.

STC beat its inevitably conservative forecast of £32m pre-tax by a comfortable margin, though with the help of a rather unexpected £1.7m credit relating to the upward revision of prices on past contracts. Although the engineering dispute, which cut £4m off profits, was probably more than it had bargained for.

Most of the increase over 1978 profits came from the component manufacturing and distribution division, which has benefited from rationalization, and which chipped in a further £4.2m at £9.4m before tax. The telecommunications and electronics division made only £2.3m more but the group is now busier in submarine cables.

With Post Office orders for the TXE4 telephone exchange, where STC has about two-fifths market share, building-up to a peak, and with the components side continuing to go well, the group should manage compounded profits growth averaging 20 per cent over the next few years.

But the premium share rating is in part at least due to the tight market with much of the 10 per cent minority firmly held. So on a one year view the shares may do no better than run with the market.

A deceptively dangerous model for public sector disputes

Hugh Stephenson

Returning to active service after a period away, the main question mark over the medium term seems to concern the Government's attitude towards pay. For the moment at least, last month's Budget has settled the outlines of fiscal and monetary policy. If the traditional pattern is anything to go by, this aspect of policy will not need looking at again until July or perhaps the autumn.

Meanwhile, those of any sort of nervous disposition will be forgiven for their continuing anxiety on the industrial front. It affects both the public and the private sector. It is in the public sector that the greatest difficulties seem to lie in producing a stable pay policy.

The notion that employers should only agree to settle for sums that their organizations/companies can afford is a dangerously misleading one. It is to remove government from a whole scene where government has in the past been conspicuously unsuccessful. But the fact is that for the majority of public sector employers, with call upon government taxing, rating and borrowing powers, this is a concept with little practical relevance around the collective bargaining table.

In practice there is a going rate in any one round of public sector wage claims. This winter that going rate has been about the 20 per cent plus mark, instead of the 10 per cent plus range of last winter. This is despite the fact that the real rate of growth of the economy in the last half-year has been slower than the same period a year ago. What is more, the Government has shown a marked reluctance to encourage public sector employers to take the sort of ultra-tough line that would fit their generally declared principles in these matters.

Indeed, the only nationalized industry which tried to get away with the proposition that it had no "new money" to put on the table because it was broke—namely the British Steel Corporation—was laughed out of court by the public, the unions and the Government together.

The disastrous tone for this last round of highly inflationary public sector wage settlements was set when the Prime Minister felt constrained to hail a 20 per cent plus settlement for the coal miners (admittedly in rejection of a strike call to get three times as much as a victory for moderation and common sense). The continuing assaults on the idea that a regime of free collective bargaining is producing

possible results have continued to flow from the Clegg commission on pay comparability and from the Whitehall pay research unit.

Indeed with these researched pay findings one is reminded of nothing more than the obvious statistical nonsense that every diplomat and every foreign travelling businessman seems to require a cost of living allowance in order to maintain his or her standard of living, no matter what country he or she starts from.

A government which really meant what it said about moving human resources from the unproductive public sector to the wealth creating sectors of the economy ought to have been prepared to question seriously the whole basis on which these things are done.

So long as the public sector continues to get pay settlements that run ahead of the national average the relative price of public sector spending will continue to surprise those who prepare public spending White Papers. And the politicians concerned will continue to be confronted with the choice of allowing spending totals to rise or cutting the volume of the services provided.

To an equal extent, the way in which some sections of the Government are deriving satisfaction from the outcome

of the steel strike appears distinctly premature. The view is being expressed that it was, perhaps, an expensive but a necessary lesson to all concerned that the Government intends to stick by its policy of non-intervention in these issues.

As the steel strike would be a deceptively dangerous model for any of the public sector disputes with which the Government might be faced over the next year. It was led without great competence by Mr Bill Sims of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation in an industry where there is a world glut of the basic product. At the same time the union had no effective plans for preventing the effective deployment of massive pre-strike stocks, or of substantial imports while the strike was in progress.

Even so the Government from the Prime Minister downwards went through agonies and would have intervened, if they could have thought of an effective way of doing so. It is unlikely that in any future public sector strike the batting would be on such an easy wicket.

As a wise Frenchman once wrote, it is necessary to want the consequences of what one wants. It is by no means certain that the Government has yet thought through this aspect of its policy.

Is the Government blundering around in the dark?

It is a principal objective of the Government's economic policy to slow down inflation—arguably the principal objective. Certainly other objectives such as keeping unemployment down seem to be totally subordinated to it.

The means to this objective is to control and gradually reduce the rate of growth of the supply of money, using a definite quantitative target which is to be hit at all costs. There is also a target for the public sector borrowing requirement, calculated to be consistent with the money supply target as well as with a policy of tax reduction. In the background is a policy of securing, or at least accepting, a high exchange rate justified by the contribution to the anti-inflation objective.

Let us focus on one key element in this policy mix. The control of the growth of money supply and its bearing on inflation. How exactly would a reduction in the rate of growth of the money supply reduce the rate of price inflation?

Much stress is laid on inflationary expectations as a factor tending to keep inflation going because it conditions the behaviour of workers and of managers, especially in relation to wage bargaining. In my view too much is made of this, but on any view it seems plain that price expectations are not plucked out of the air, but are based mainly on recent experience.

Thus if inflationary expectations are to be got down, actual inflation has to be got down first. (If anyone thought that the mere announcement by the Government of a firm monetary target would of itself reduce inflationary expectations substantially, he must surely have changed his opinion in the last six months.)

It is not obvious that the increase in the value added rate did more to raise inflationary expectations than the announced target did to reduce them?

How, then, does the control of the growth of money supply reduce actual inflation, before expectations themselves have been reduced? It must be by reducing demand for goods and services—how else? And how, then, does it reduce demand? Mainly, of course, by raising interest rates.

It is sometimes argued that there are other and more direct routes by which changing the growth of money supply will affect demand but none of them seem likely to be very powerful. Especially when realistic account is taken of the way in which the quantity of money is in fact controlled, that is, by interest rates and operations in the debt markets.

Thus the rise in interest rates is not an accidental and inconsequential side-effect of the Government's monetary policy: it is

an absolutely essential part of the process by which it achieves its intended effect. It was indeed predictable from the outset of the Government's term that there would be a sharp rise in interest rates as soon as the money supply target came into conflict with the inflation-driven demand for money; and the extreme reluctance and apparent surprise with which ministers undertook the operation suggests that they do not clearly realize the nature of their own policies.

So far, then, the policy involves reducing the level of demand (compared with what it would have been), mainly through higher interest rates. The next step is from reducing demand to reducing inflation.

This step may seem simple enough to anyone who has absorbed the idea that prices are set by a balance between supply and demand.

To summarize, then, the

employers and workers engaged in wage bargaining nationally and locally.

Since the level of unemployment, which we have had in the past few years, is plainly not enough to bring about a marked deceleration of wage increases, we must infer that more unemployment is required to make the necessary impact in the labour market.

So, just as a rise in interest rates is inherent in Government policy, so is a rise—a substantial rise—in unemployment. Without such a rise, there is no reason to think that the labour market will generate substantially lower increases in wages and salaries than we have had in this winter's wage-round. Without such a reduction there is no reason to expect any large fall in the rate of inflation, even if the Government is successful in bringing about a lower level of demand.

To summarize, then, the

Does this mean that the policy should be given up entirely? If so, will we be left without any defences against accelerating inflation? My belief certainly is that the policy needs to be drastically changed, and I am certain that it will be.

I believe that the fixed target for the growth of the money supply should be given up, as too the fixed target for the public sector borrowing requirement. These are simply unsuitable entities to be fixed quantitatively in advance as central and alterable objectives of policy. No one can know in advance what will have to be done in order to achieve such objectives over a period of time, nor what the economic effects will be if they are achieved.

This does not mean that there is to be no defence against accelerating inflation. But it has to be recognized that the chances of effecting a

crete terms, how high interest rates would have to go and how much unemployment would have to increase.

You do not get a deceleration of inflation for nothing: any policy that will produce it will have costs. The policy chosen should make sense as a whole taking all its effects together. Then what is right to do vis-à-vis inflation must take account of what is already happening in the economy generally. In my view it is a more important priority in present circumstances to minimize the coming increase in unemployment than to make a sharp reduction in the rate of inflation.

Finally there is the question of the exchange rate, that is standing at a level which is destroying our international competitiveness.

Perhaps I can outline the approach which seems to me to make the best sense in the light of the arguments above. The general idea would be to frame a set of objectives for the next 12-18 months which seemed the least unattractive available combination of unemployment, price inflation and international competitiveness, taking into account the prospective state of the world economy and the potential developments in the wage and salary system.

Fiscal policy and monetary policy should be set so as to promote these objectives. A number of policies or policy attitudes need to be worked out together in mutual consistency, of course in practice some of these policies have more flexibility than others and can be more easily redirected as time goes on and circumstances change.

The budget would be aimed at a certain combination of real and monetary flows, believed mutually consistent, and from this budget would emerge a forecast of the public sector borrowing requirement. But this would simply be a forecast, not a policy target to be monitored and treated as an over-riding objective. Similarly there would be a forecast of the increase in the money supply which would have the same status.

In the present circumstances I would not promise under this policy any marked reduction in the near future either of the rate of inflation or of the level of unemployment. Indeed, given the world situation it seems hardly possible to avoid some rise in unemployment.

But at least we would have got back to thinking of production and activity as objectives of policy, not merely as quantities which emerge from the working out of policy. The sights have been set on the growth of the money supply and which would be mercilessly redirected as necessary to achieve the pre-set result.

The Select Committee on the Treasury and the Civil Service yesterday questioned the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Government's approach to economic management. In this article Sir Bryan Hopkin (left), who was Head of the Government Economic Service and Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury from 1974-1977, says that the present policies are ill-conceived and argues for measures aimed at holding down unemployment.



In fact, in a modern industrial society it is not that simple. Most prices are not set by a simple process of interaction of supply and demand in a market (though some are). They are set as an "administrative" act by the manufacturers and distributors, on the basis mainly of their own policies.

To get these prices down (or rather, to check their rate of rise), you have to get costs down: it is not enough to get demand down. The immediate effect of reducing demand in most sectors is not to reduce prices but to reduce output, that is, to cause stagnation and add to unemployment.

We are thus brought to consider wages and salaries and the role they play in the movement of costs. The essential step that must be taken if the Government's policy is to work is to reduce the increase in wages and salaries must be brought down compared with what they would otherwise have been. If this happens it will come from the pressure of unemployment, not from any policy of wage and trade recession on

Government has embarked on a policy of making unemployment to make the necessary impact in the labour market.

The first thing that needs to be said is that it is indeed the policy to reduce the rate of inflation down and so change inflationary expectations.

The knowledge to enable one to work out a balance of the costs and benefits of the policy simply does not exist. The Government is blundering about in the dark, for all its stance of firm and informed purpose. It is a work of judgment what the costs in high interest rates and unemployment of a given benefit will be. My judgment is that if the policy continues to be operated as it is at present the costs will be heavy and prolonged.

reduction in the rate of inflation depend to a great extent on the states of mind—the views and objectives—of those engaged in bargaining about wages and salaries.

Policy on fiscal and monetary instruments must take account of the atmosphere and prospects in that sector, and the refusal to do this properly is one of the great errors of present policy. Nor is it beyond hope that the Government should exercise some helpful influence on that atmosphere so as to decelerate the scale of wage and salary increases. A refusal even to try to do this is an abnegation of responsibility.

Next, there is no sense in being over-ambitious. It may well be that in present circumstances a fairly high rate of inflation has to be accepted. What is reasonable as an objective in regard to inflation must take account both of the strength of the forces making for inflation in the labour market and of the situation that will be produced elsewhere in the economy, by any particular anti-inflation policy—in con-

Business Diary: Government health warning • Zurich ponders

if Sir George... smokes... and only... coughing... the... dog-end...

ain yesterday, at the demon... vision and at... Organization... meva...

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f the smoker... nospere must... to the rights... breathe fresh

Changes are afoot at the directorate of the Swiss national bank, the three-man body that makes all the key decisions governing the banking of the Swiss franc.

Leo Schürmann will be leaving the national bank to head the Swiss Broadcasting Company next March and already Zurich bankers are confident that his place will be taken by Markus Lusser, at present chief executive of the Swiss Banking Federation.

Although nobody in Switzerland doubts that Lusser is supremely qualified for the job, the prospect of his being appointed as one of the deputies of Fritz Leutwiler, the president of the Swiss National Bank, has raised the hackles of the Swiss Social Democratic Party.

The Social Democrats are warning political war against the Swiss banking industry and claim that Lusser's appointment to the directorate of the national bank will undermine its independence when it comes to dealing with the gnomes from the commercial banks in Zurich's Bahnhofstrasse.

But the gnomes themselves have reservations about the appointment. They are certain that Lusser will show a sturdy independence once he is established at the national bank—in which case his intimate knowledge of the inside world of Swiss banking could become an embarrassment for them.



Hollywood

"They are not asking for more pay, but they insist on a 26-hour week with treble rates for overtime."

Wherever Mr X of Bristol is at the moment, he need only look at the latest copy of the Midland Bank staff newspaper to discover how Mary feels about him.

The manager of the bank's Corn Street, Bristol, branch, Mr A. H. Davies, has reproduced in the newspaper a cheque which the aforesaid Mary has sent to this anonymous gentleman.

It reads: "Pay Mr X eight pounds only—not a penny more, with a big kiss, Mary". The manager has dutifully blanked out the identities of those concerned but cannot restrain himself from commenting, "while I have no idea to what it relates, Mr X is obviously a very lucky gentleman".



Hollywood

Hollywood legend has it that many years ago a man named Goldfish met a man named Selwyn and they decided to form a joint company. After rejecting the name "Selfish Films Inc" they settled upon "Goldwyn Film Company", and so a famous name was born. Next month will see the start of a new era in the Goldwyn annals.

Metro-Goldwyn Mayer Inc has been making films for years. It has also been rapidly developing in the hotel-casino business and now it has decided to split itself into two separate publicly held companies.

The final decision to create the Metro-Goldwyn Mayer Film Company and MGM Grand Hotels Incorporated will be voted on by shareholders next month.

Both new companies look set for exciting times. The MGM Grand Hotels group plans spending \$100m to add 750 rooms to its 2,075-room palace in Las Vegas and another 980 rooms to its 1,015-room hotel in Reno, Nevada. There are also plans for a new 1,000 room hotel in the new American gambling centre of Atlantic City, not far from New York.

MGM Films has all sorts of bright ideas, many of which include British talent. Laurence Olivier, Maggie Smith and Claire Bloom are starring in "The Titans" which is being made at Pinewood Studios.

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Our presence will make your heart grow fonder.

If you are resident overseas, the best way of keeping in touch with events back home is by reading The Times.

However, due to rising costs and to avoid any unnecessary wastage of newspaper, The Times has reduced the number of copies offered for casual sale—both at home and abroad.

Don't risk losing touch. Place a subscription with The Times and be sure of your daily copy.

For further information and subscription details, write to The Subscriptions Manager, The Times, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 3EZ.

SCOTTISH AMICABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the One Hundred and Fifty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the Members will be held in 150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5NQ on Wednesday 16th April, 1980 at Noon.

By Order of the Directors
W. PROUDFOOT
General Manager and Actuary
150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow.
G2 5NQ, 14th March, 1980.



FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Interest rate worries slow gilts

The stock market opened the new account with the expected shift upwards as gilts made the running and equities followed.

The day started with heavy demand for Government stock and although trading began late, giving dealers time to catch up with the paperwork created by the issue of a new tap on Friday afternoon. Fresh buying of Exchequer 13½ per cent 1985 tap quickly exhausted remaining official supplies which are estimated at about £100m.

The response to the new £1,000m Treasury 2004/08 stock was also favourable, coming as something of a surprise to some gilt dealers. It is suggested that Thursday's order will be a sellout with only £200m required on application.

Both shorts and longs went better all morning until rumours that interest rates would remain at present levels through the summer temporarily halted the improvement. Longs, which had been up to £113, better, closed from £113.11 up, while shorts finished at the top £113.11.

Equities also reacted to the interest rate rumours and the FT index up to its highest point of the day at 406.6, up 5.0 by lunchtime, it slipped back to close 2.6 better at 438.2.

In a week with several large companies reporting results, Glaxo started the list and disappointed the market with its £35m. Despite this, there was no heavy selling in the stock. The price closed at 236p down 1p. Unilever also fell sharply by 13p to 395p as it went ex-dividend yesterday, while ICI which went up to 376p at one point after the annual meeting, finished the day unchanged at 372p, as did Fisons at 274p. Rank gained 2p to 195p, while Reed put on 17p to 79p with another paper group, Bowater which reported results last week, gaining 7p to 182p. Pilkington went up 2p while BAT gained 3p to 238p and Turner and Newall, after weekend press comment, rose 1p to 113p.

Worries over the expected bid for Guthrie from Sime Darby served to depress the price 49p to 863p, but the long-awaited offer from American group Marsh and McLellan gave an 18p boost to insurance broker CT Bowring.

News that 20,000 Furness

Yesterday's go-ahead for two AGR nuclear reactors is a shot in the arm for Northern Engineering Industries, which should see around £250m worth of business from the project. The shares have dropped about a quarter since worries about the future of AGR reactors first surfaced, and closed 2½p higher at 40p last night. Full-year figures on Thursday are not expected to be good but the current year is looking more promising.

With shares had been purchased at 366p on behalf of Arside Investment, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mr CV Tung's Orient Overseas Container Group pushed the Furness price up 1p to 371p.

Grand Metropolitan fell 4p after four years at 124p with the news of its \$415m bid for the American Liggett group while Trust House Forte added 6p to 161p.

Waring and Gilroy's purchase of 200,000 Maple ordinary shares at 30½p and 2,600 preference shares at 70p pushed Maple's price up ½p to

31½p, 1½p over the offer price. But Waring's explained that the purchase does not force it to make a higher offer as 30½p is the offer price including the second interim dividend, announced in the offer document. Waring finished 2½p up at 105p.

Other stores followed the market trend with Boots rising 7p to 192p, 6½p A 2 adding 6p to 386p and House of Fraser advancing 3p to 126p.

The Burton Group, which reacted to adverse comment after last week's results by falling 7p to 107p during the day, recovered to close at 113p while Curry's produced disappointing figures but with an improved dividend which helped to boost the share price by 2p to 162p.

York Trailer announced a profit drop and a redundancy programme which depressed the price 3p to 28p.

David Dixon's sale of its 10 per cent stake in Montfort (Knitting Mills) after an abortive takeover bid put on 3p to 89p for Montfort, Dixon, with its £30,000 profit from the deal, was unchanged at 96p.

The electrical sector continued on its recovery tack with Thera-EMT gaining 12p to 296p, GEC adding 7p to 377p and Decca improving by 15p to 865p and the "A" shares rising 10p to 580p. Rascal put on 5p to 239p as did Ferranti to 500p.

Oils, with the exception of BP which was down 8p to 346p

on further cautious press comment, were busy all day with Ultramar reaching an all-time high of 560p, up 16p.

In buildings Ready Mixed Concrete, also reporting today, went up 5p to 165p and Rugby Cement gained 2p to 70½p ahead

The point about the failure of Sime Darby to buy M and G Group's 13.5 per cent stake in Guthrie, to add its own 30 per cent interest, is that M and G is holding out for a general offer to all shareholders. It will not, as a matter of principle, do a special deal with Sime not available to others.

An all-out bid from Sime for Guthrie looks very near. Something under £10 a share should do the trick. Yesterday the shares closed at 863p.

of today's figures. Ladbroke's slipped 2p to 146p after last week's results while Coral, whose gaming licences are under threat, was unchanged at 67p.

Equity turnover for April 11 was £92,882m (number of bargains 13,078). The most active stocks, according to Exchange Telegraph, were Lasmo, BF, Burnham, Shell, Ultramar, Bowater, Burton Group, Barclays, Grand Metropolitan, Hotels, ICI, Marks and Spencer, Thomas Tilling, BAT, European Ferries and Glaxo.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
ICI or Fin	11,117.0	1,511.0	123(0.8)	31/5	2,011.4
Automated Secs (F)	11,117.0	1,511.0	123(0.8)	31/5	2,011.4
Currys (F)	28,210.1	1,714.4	32(2.7)	27/5	5,214.5
Currys (F)	221.3(191.7)	11.8(12.1)	6.2(—)	—	7,515.0
J E Eng'nd & Sns (F)	31.5(37.7)	0.08(0.34)	—(0.40)	—	0.41(4.2)
Glaxo (I)	255.9(268.2)	30.3(36.5)	3.7(2.5)	20/6	—
Hambro Life (F)	—	10.8(8.2)	5.7(—)	10/6	7,214.7
Huntleigh Gp (F)	11.3(8.5)	0.57(0.95)	0.6(—)	1/7	1,191(0.76)
M P Kent (I)	7.7(5.9)	1.5(0.7)	—	—	—
Richards (Leis) (F)	3.6(5.3)	0.15(0.32)	2.8(—)	30/5	4,314.25
Sec Int (Scott) (F)	—	3.8(2.9)	2.9(—)	23/6	4.8(3.5)
Standard T & C (F)	437.0(374.0)	33.4(26.9)	6.0(—)	—	8.0(—)
Wallington (F)	—	2.4(3.0)	3.38(3.37)	29/5	5,235(5.0)
A. Wood (F)	—	0.15(0.20)	1.0(—)	28/5	—
York Trailer (F)	39.4(32.1)	0.69(1.1)	0.39(1.19)	1/7	1,972(2.3)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. * = Loss.

Currys down 2pc as competition grows

By Peter Wilson Smith

Currys, the High Street retailer of electrical appliances, recorded a 2 per cent fall in profits to £11.9m before tax in the year to January 23. Profits included a lower surplus from the sale of properties—£488,000 against £603,000—but was after near doubling of net interest receivable from £960,000 to £1.88m. Group turnover rose by 15 per cent to £221m including VAT.

Following the ending of dividend control, the group has decided to restore the rate of dividend to the 1972 level, adjusted for inflation. Accordingly, the year's dividend has been increased by 47 per cent to 10½p gross.

Currys first-half profits were 24 per cent higher at £4.7m, but following the General and the increase in VAT, demand eased and competition intensified in the third quarter of the year. There was some pick up for a late-starting Christmas period, but not enough to prevent profits from falling in the second half of 1979-80.

The group's credit trading balances at the year end, after the provision for unreturned profits, were a fifth higher at £17.7m. The total provision against was £10.7m against £9.81m, giving rise to a charge against the current year group profits of £911,000.

Higher stock relief and capital allowances reduced the 1979-80 tax charge from £4.1m to £2.5m, so after-tax profits will form 15 per cent higher at £9.2m. The group has transferred £5.81m to current cost reserve, reflecting the difference between profit on an historical cost basis, and on a current cost basis.

Joint managing director Mr T. Currys reckons that the current year will be a difficult one, and price competition in the High Street is tough. But he says that, so far, the group is ahead of its sales targets. At 162p the shares yield 6.6 per cent.

ICI faces stern test this year

By Philip Robinson

Imperial Chemical Industries' chairman Sir Maurice Hodgson warned shareholders yesterday that the biggest United Kingdom company, which he heads, is in for a tough time this year.

meeting, Sir Maurice said that although the first three months of this year had started better than the board might have expected, their earnings were slackening.

He said that while the predicted recession was slow in coming, it is becoming clear that it is going to be difficult to obtain the further price increases urgently needed to offset increased costs.

The current high level of chemical and man-made fibre imports are an additional problem which the group faces in the United Kingdom, he added.

Sir Maurice said the effects of any future increase in oil prices, or strengthening of sterling, will therefore be even harder to absorb.

But he said that the growing profits from the group's stake in the North Sea Ninian oil field—which helped boost profits last year by a third to £560m, would not be used to subsidise chemical operations.

Instead the group aims to reduce energy consumption still



Sir Maurice Hodgson, chairman of ICI.

further, to save on capital spending and earn better returns by squeezing the maximum output from existing plants. "Despite good progress made in recent years, the company needs to step up the rate of improvement in manpower efficiency, and is seeking more ways to contain working capital," Sir Maurice said.

He added that last year working capital increased by £262m, but the amount of cash

generated by the last two years was sufficient to cover on-plant and working capital requirements to fund a reduction in 1979, and a further £250m in 1979. "The pressure on resources to fund the new approach is a real test," he said.

Sir Maurice said a tough year for companies amid rates was being felt by the group.

Bayer UK where per cent from on a turnover ahead to £146m.

Much of the increase in trad wiped away a charge which doubled to £3m. John Webb said quarter too had

Westinghouse deal with MK Electric

Westinghouse Electric Corp.

one of the world's largest electrical groups and MK Electric Holdings, Britain's largest manufacturer of wiring devices, yesterday announced a joint venture to operate from January.

Ostermill, a Westinghouse subsidiary, and MK will jointly manufacture switchgear.

MK will subscribe, in cash, for 49 per cent of the share capital of two subsidiaries of Ostermill (Ostermill Products and Ostermill Chilton), the latter of which will change its name to Westinghouse Electric. MK, the subscription price, which is expected to be about £940,000, will be based on the net asset values of the two subsidiaries on December 13, 1980.

Ostermill, one of several divisions and subsidiaries in the Westinghouse Group, has headquarters in Ottery St Mary, Devon. It has five manufacturing facilities in England (of which two will form the joint venture) and South Africa. It manufactures circuit protective devices, switchgear and control products.

MK Electric Holdings is the world's largest manufacturer of British-made wiring devices and also produces the EGA range of installation systems, Superswitch electronic devices and the SENTRY system of consumer units and distribution boards, developed in conjunction with Siemens of West Germany.

Under the old Leach/Lawson rules governing bank accounts, banks were only required to make general provisions against those advances considered to be at risk.

For perspective, Barclays points out that of its total advances of £20,517m, some £5,100m—including £4,142m placed with banks for more than 30 days—£1,000m in finance provided under fixed rate schemes—would normally be considered to be at risk free under the old conventions. Sir Anthony suggests that the old formula whereby general provisions were set at 1-1½ per cent of advances may have to be reconsidered, but he stresses that Barclays is ample to meet all contingencies.

Barclays has also followed National Westminster in providing shareholders with more details of its gross income and expenditure.

Record turnover lifts Bramall to £1.77m

By Rosemary Unsworth

Bradford-based motor vehicle dealer C. D. Bramall boosted profits by 26 per cent in 1979, while pushing up turnover by a record near 40 per cent.

Profits went from £1.4m to £1.77m while turnover rose by £8m to £28.2m in the year to December 31, 1979.

The results are in line with chairman Mr Tony Bramall's warning at the interim stage that profits would be held back by the increased impact of rising costs.

The group's Ford main dealerships contributed £25.8m against £18.5m of turnover. Contract

hire and leasing was £1.9m compared with £1.4m. Hire purchase was £415,000, a 21 per cent improvement over the previous year.

Mr Bramall added that the group's search for expansion through acquisition was nearing completion.

He added that the three Ford dealerships all increased market share during the year despite protected deliveries of new vehicles during the first six months.

The final dividend has been increased from 4.25p gross to 4.57p, making a total of 7.5p against 7p the previous year.

M P Kent 105pc up

MP Kent, the Bristol-based property developer and house-builder is not putting a foot wrong. In the half-year to December 31, sales rose by nearly 30 per cent to £7.78m while pretax profits soared 105 per cent to £1.52m.

The dividend moves more sedately, rising 37 per cent to 0.72p a share gross allowing for a one-for-one scrip issue, from earnings of 6.5p.

Kent had pretax profits of £1.85m. The figure indicated now by Mr M. P. Kent and his colleague is around £3m. In

practice observers take this to mean about £3.15m, with perhaps £5m coming up in 1981-82.

This year Kent will derive around three-fifths of its profits from property development, and the rest from housing, mainly in the £18,000-£20,000 bracket.

Next year it is likely that property—offices, shops and warehouses will account for three quarters of profits.

Kent is expected to have low borrowings in relation to capital employed, about 30 per cent, and the shares hardened 7p to 60p.

Chemical Bank's first quarter earnings rise

Chemical Bank's first

quarter earnings rise

Chemical Bank's first quarter earnings rose by 10 per cent to £3.25m, an increase of 83 per cent from the £3.07m earned in the first quarter of 1979. Earnings per common share were £2.06 compared with £1.94 in 1979.

Net income was \$32.5m (\$2.06 per common share) up from the \$26.7m (\$1.66 per common share) last year. Securities losses were "minimal" compared with \$4.1m last year.

Total assets of the corporation at March 31, were \$39,500m, compared with \$33,200m at March 31, 1979. Deposits at the same dates were \$29,500m and \$24,900m.

Chase Manhattan Corp yesterday reported first quarter earnings before securities transactions of \$88.1m compared with \$73.1m a year earlier.

After securities transactions earnings were \$86.5m, or \$2.54 a share, compared with \$71.2m or \$2.06 in 1979.

Earnings reflected an increase of \$52m, or 55 per cent in other operating income.

Eurobonds

Industrie Pirelli is raising a \$555m four-year Eurocredit lead managed by Orion Bank and Credito Italiano, Orion Bank said.

The credit carries a spread of 8 per cent over London Interbank Offered Rates throughout, with three years' grace.

Banco Di Santo Spirito, a subsidiary of state holding company IRI, is raising \$30m through a seven-year Eurocredit

lead managed by Hambros Bank, an official of the Italian bank said.

North Katguli Mines

North Katguli Mines said a study it commissioned Hill Samuel Project Finance Australia to carry out, on the basis of 40.5m shares, values the company at A\$2.31 to A\$2.84, against an A\$1.11 close in Melbourne yesterday.

It said the study assumed a base rate gold price of US \$500 an ounce.

Cheung Kong outlook

Cheung Kong Holdings of Hongkong said it expects to at least maintain total dividends for 1980 at the proposed 1979 level of 55 cents, on capital doubled by its planned one-for-one bonus issue.

Mr Li Ka Shing, the chairman, said he expected "very satisfactory" growth in the group's ordinary trading profit for the current year, but made no specific forecast.

Cheung Kong earlier reported group 1979 net profit of HK\$254.1m before extraordinary profits of HK\$585.5m.

The group's spokesman declined to give details of the extraordinary profits.

Mr Li said that unless the group entered into any new large cash investments in 1980, the projected cash flow for the group this year would cover all bank and other loans outstanding at end-1979.

Barclays chief on bad debts

The classification of bank

advance into risk and risk-free categories for general bad debt provision purposes is called into question by Sir Anthony Take in his annual statement in the 1979 report and accounts of Barclays Bank.

He argues that those advances which used to be considered free of risk could no longer be considered as safe as they used to be following the events in Iran.

Under the old Leach/Lawson rules governing bank accounts, banks were only required to make general provisions against those advances considered to be at risk.

For perspective, Barclays points out that of its total advances of £20,517m, some £5,100m—including £4,142m placed with banks for more than 30 days—£1,000m in finance provided under fixed rate schemes—would normally be considered to be at risk free under the old conventions. Sir Anthony suggests that the old formula whereby general provisions were set at 1-1½ per cent of advances may have to be reconsidered, but he stresses that Barclays is ample to meet all contingencies.

Barclays has also followed National Westminster in providing shareholders with more details of its gross income and expenditure.

More financial

Hoffnung spurns Burns Philp

S. Hoffnung has rejected a second and final £17.5m takeover offer from Australian conglomerate Burns Philp in the latest round of the hotly-contested bid battle.

While Burns was buying more Hoffnung shares in the Stock Market yesterday at the new bid price of 88p, the Hoffnung board, claiming asset backing of 125p a share, announced its continued opposition and said it would be writing to shareholders shortly.

United Kingdom-based trading group which is the bulk of profits from Australia, was expected to reject the second offer. It said the first, of 80p, was "totally inadequate".

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Loyal Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone

The Over-the-Counter Market

1979/80 High Low Company Price Chgs Div%

99 60 Airsprung Group 64 +1 6.7

50 26 Armistage & Rhodes 28 — 3.8

268 185 Bardon Hill 268 +3 13.8

100 80 County Cars' Pref 80 — 15.3

101 63 Deborah Ord 97 — 1 5.0

109 88 Frank Horsell 109 +2 7.9

129 98 Frederick Parker 98 — 12.8

156 102 George Blair 107 — 16.5

153 112 Jackson Group 68 — 7.2

300 242 James Burroughs 278 +3 31.3

232 175 Robert Jenkins 220 — 14.3

34 113 Torday Limited 270 +1 0.8

80 70 Twinlock 12% ULS 78 — 12.0

56 23 Uniflock Holdings 49 +2 2.6

49 47 Uniflock Holdings New 47 — 4.4

99 42 Walter Alexander 95 — 14.3

190 136 W. S. Yates 185 — 12.1

*Accounts prepared under provision of SSAP1

ICI IN THE 80s: BASIC STRENGTHS TO BUILD ON



"Modern world-scale plants, a good product portfolio, a measure of self-sufficiency in oil, first class management, skilled, involved employees, and good industrial relations"

EEC

Evidence suggests that entry to the Community has been very good for ICI's business. Our trade with Europe took a very sharp turn upwards after British entry. In 1972 our sales in Continental Western Europe were £235 million; now they are £1,053 million. Our exports to EEC countries have grown four times as fast as the overall demand for chemicals in the EEC. We must now regard the EEC as our large home market.

SHARE OWNERSHIP

The pattern of share ownership in ICI and other companies is changing; in ICI's case institutional stockholders now own 53% of the Company's share capital, whereas ten years ago the figure was 14%. We very much regret the decline of the small stockholder, but hope that the greater freedom which companies now have to carry on their businesses without controls on prices and dividends will in due course lead to a better deal for stockholders than they have had in recent years.

PROSPECTS FOR 1980

Prospects for the coming year are distinctly uncertain, although the first quarter has started better than we might have expected. The predicted recession has been slow in coming but there is now some evidence of forward demand slackening. Hence it is becoming clearer that it is going to be difficult to obtain the further price increases we urgently need to offset increased costs, and the current high

level of chemical and man-made fibre imports are an additional problem which we face in the UK. The effects of any future increase in oil prices or strengthening of sterling will therefore be even harder to absorb in these circumstances. Given these uncertainties in matters over which we have no control, we are reacting by concentrating on matters we can control—greater energy savings; achieving maximum output from existing plants; improving manpower efficiency; and constraining the growth of working capital.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 80s

In looking ahead to the 80's there can be no certainty but the fact is that we have basic strengths to build on. We have modern, world-scale plants, a good product portfolio, a good territorial spread, a measure of self-sufficiency in oil, first class management, skilled and involved employees and good industrial relations. On that basis, we shall continue to take positive steps to compete successfully worldwide.



Imperial Chemical Industries Limited

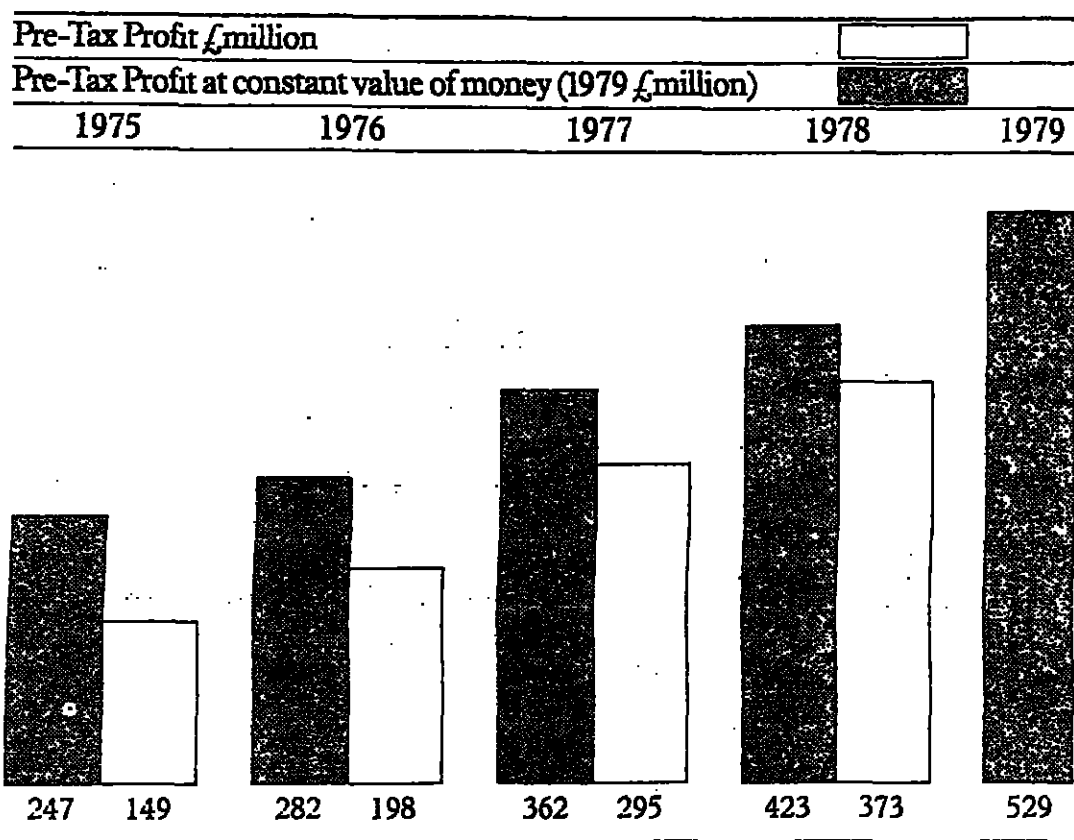


Barclays 1979

The impact of inflation on a business dealing only in money.

The Annual General Meeting of Barclays Bank Limited will be held in London on May 8th, 1980. The following are extracts from the address to the Stockholders by the Chairman, Sir Anthony Tuke, for the year 1979.

Our profits of £529.4 million show an increase of 42% over last year's figures, but one must set this increase against the impact of inflation on a business dealing entirely in money. In order to stand still, we must match the year on year rate of inflation and, if we were to add 18% to last year's profit, we would figure of about £440 million. In fact we have done rather better than that, but we have been operating in a year against a background of very high interest rates and this has been of considerable benefit to the Bank which has provided by far the largest part of the increase in our profits. When rates rise, as they surely will, the branch banking system will inevitably face a challenge to control its costs and to produce a major contribution to the profits of the Group. On the international side, a wide and the narrow spreads in the Eurodollar market have made profits harder to earn. Nevertheless, Barclays International has shown a satisfactory increase mainly due to a general growth of business in the world. The table below puts the Group's profits since 1975 in true perspective, and one can see the effect of the falling value of the pound on our figures.



For the first time this year we are setting out our general and specific provisions for bad and debts separately. Provisions are not an exact science as they depend on individual judgement, but case for providing Stockholders with more information. The specific provision, as its name implies, is related to a particular debt and each of our Managers throughout the world has the responsibility of all or part of a debt to the doubtful category as soon as he has reason to believe this debt will not be paid in full. Exactly how much of a debt is relegated in this way must be a matter of judgement and it is not said that human nature encourages a conservative attitude. We are, however, most careful to ensure that over-provision is not taking place and our specific provisions are calculated on a basis of

General provisions are in a different field. We know from experience that a bank or, in our case of banks, has within its portfolio debts which though not identified as such may well turn out to be political risks are an obvious example of this and one can think of others; for instance, the strike in the industry will almost certainly bring with it problems amongst borrowings already in our books. Therefore that Stockholders, who after all own the business, should be advised that in the opinion of the Directors there is a clear line to be drawn between the reserves of the Bank, which are part of their prudent sum to be set aside for problems unidentified as yet. Under the convention known as the Lawson Rules, formulated in 1969 for the Clearing Banks before they became fully international, we maintained our general provisions within a band of 1% to 1½% of advances and, in recent years, we have been defined by the authorities as excluding advances regarded as risk-free. We continue to follow this convention in this year's Accounts, but the time has surely come to look into the arbitrary distinction between advances at risk and those considered to be risk-free, particularly as the latter category includes deposits placed with banks outside this country and clearly some of these funds are not free from risk. The present position in Iran and the understandable American reaction in freezing deposits are a situation that makes this classification less and less realistic. It is the duty of the Directors to judge on the correct general provision on a world-wide basis as we have great responsibilities in this country. The existing formula will, I believe, need to be reconsidered but, in the meantime, we can feel reasonably satisfied that we have about £145 million set aside for these contingencies.

Our long-term Stockholders naturally pay more attention to the dividend they receive than to the price of the stock on any particular day as this is affected by all sorts of matters outside our control. The amount of the dividend, however, is now within our control and any holder of a Bank share will hope that his dividend will at least keep up with inflation. If we go back to 1961, the date of our last dividend, this hope has been fulfilled but, if we start in 1973, we have fallen slightly behind. This year, we have our Stockholders should get a little bit ahead of the current inflation rate and the Board therefore proposes a dividend of 10.25p per £1 Ordinary stock. We also propose later in the year to make a one-for-one issue and, subject to any unforeseen circumstances, we hope to pay the same rate of dividend for 1980 on the increased capital; although a Scrip Issue does no more than divide the cake into more number of our Stockholders have told us this would be welcome to them.

Banking trends

The 1970's opened with high hopes for domestic banking, partly as a result of the abolition of ceilings. In money terms, the banks appear to have done well; sterling deposits have just about matched the rate of growth has slowed since 1974. The endowment element in high interest rates has the unrecovered cost of our money transmission services and has taken some of the sting out of the foreign banks have acquired a larger share of domestic lending and, in addition, margins have been squeezed. The period has also been associated with a remarkable growth in wholesale lending markets.

Unfortunately this decade is opening with a recession and prospects for economic growth cannot be until three main features of our life change. First, we must raise our comparatively low productivity; second, we must shift our industrial base from old declining industries to those of new technology; and, third, we must improve our industrial relations which have suffered so much from the strains of inflation.

The incipient recession and the likely change of balance from older manufacturing industry to services, including services, may restrain the rate of growth of corporate lending for some years. Nevertheless, corporate profits in real terms are at present very low and this must strain liquidity and force banks to maintain their bank borrowing, however involuntarily. But, if Britain can obtain a much needed new investment in industrial profitability, a larger share of industry's financial needs may be met from retentions in the more active new issue market. Until this happens the burden will remain with the banks who must be still more responsive to the needs of their corporate customers for skilled services.

Over the next ten years, the banks should be able to expand their personal sector business both in money transmission and credit, but competition will be sharp from the public institutions and the building societies. The single most important question for the Clearers in the personal sector is whether they will be able to attract on a profitable basis that part of the population which does not at present have a bank account. Our success will depend upon our ability to persuade Government, the Unions and employees to move away from cash wages and this depends to a great extent upon whether we can provide members of the public with cash where they want it, at all hours of the day, seven days a week, and also upon the development of electronic funds transfer and plastic card technology. Changes in our banking systems that will allow all our customers to meet more of their needs away from the bank counter seem an essential prerequisite for a breakthrough in the personal field.

At the same time, we will have to take greater advantage of our existing resources including our branch network. We need to strengthen our share of the market in personal lending and as collectors of savings, where we have lost ground to the building societies in particular.

International

Turning to the international banking field, the predominant feature of the 1970's has been the expansion of the Eurocurrency deposit market, which grew tenfold in money terms far outstripping the growth of deposits raised locally in individual countries. The supply of OPEC deposits and the liquidity they have given the international banking system have reduced margins even in lendings to high risk developing countries, which have become the major borrowers. This could well continue into the 1980's even though the international political scene is much less stable than it has been for some years. Part at least of the world's economic problems has arisen from the roughly twentyfold increase during ten years in the dollar price of oil and one effect has been a similar increase in the price of gold. Unless the dollar strengthens its appeal as a reserve currency, it may be that the movement to non-dollar currencies will continue and this, coupled with the recent abolition of exchange control, should give British banks a chance to expand their share of the international market, particularly as their exposures to risky areas are probably less than many of their international competitors. However, all banks will look to wider margins if only because of the need to maintain capital ratios in an era of continued inflation and uncertainty.

The international side of the Group's business has been transformed from overseas banking in former colonial territories into that of a fully international bank. In 1971, we acquired the minority interest in Barclays Bank DCO. Since then, we have developed our business rapidly in a number of financial centres - Europe, Australia, the Far East, South America and, most of all, the United States where we now have 464 branches and where our purchase of Barclays American Corporation was the largest foreign acquisition we have ever made. We have also built up a strong position in the wholesale sterling and Eurocurrency markets in London itself.

Other developments

At home, we have developed a number of our services to the corporate market including those of our Merchant Bank, the introduction of our Business Advisory Service to help small and medium size companies in their financial management problems and the substantial growth of medium term lending. We have also increased considerably our wholesale deposit base from negligible figures to more than a quarter of our deposits, the majority of which come from our own customers.

Important in the personal field was the acquisition of Mercantile Credit Company which, in addition to expanding its share of the market in consumer credit, has become our leasing arm and is now amongst the largest leasing companies in this country. Its business in this field continues to provide growing support for industrial investment.

The development of consumer credit in branches and through Barclaycard has been a significant feature which we expect to continue, including perhaps a modest entry into the home loan market as soon as conditions permit.

If I were to prophesy the main areas of growth for us in the next ten years, I would say that in our corporate business the need for the development and finance of world resources will provide further scope for the services of multi-currency medium term lending, foreign exchange, energy and project finance and export credits. In the domestic field, further expansion of a wide range of consumer credit will continue to be a buoyant area on which the future prosperity of our operations will depend. The real challenge to us over the next few years will be our ability to create the necessary modern banking systems and facilities to attract profitably the 11 million wage and salary earners who today have no active clearing bank account.

Staff

In 1970, we employed 75,000 men and women in 42 countries; today, we employ over 110,000 and we now cover 75 countries. These figures illustrate the expansion of the Group over the last decade, progress which would not have been achieved without the whole-hearted support of our staff; this has made it possible for us to grow and yet maintain the high standard of service we offer to customers.

In the past year, their work has not always been easy - for example, during the fighting in Uganda there was only one day when we were not able to offer some sort of service to our customers; in Dominica and St Vincent, natural disasters caused havoc. At home, the threat of violent robbery, once almost unknown, is ever present.

Unless our customers are provided with a high standard of service, we shall fall behind our competitors. There is no danger of that while we have such a keen, loyal and efficient staff and I know that Stockholders will wish to give them the thanks they so fully deserve.

Anthony Tuke

Sir Anthony Tuke, Chairman of Barclays Bank Limited.

The Barclays Bank Report and Accounts gives a comprehensive review of the Group's activities in the UK and around the world. To obtain a copy, just send this coupon to the address below.



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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

York Trailer cuts payout after slump

York Trailer Holdings, which yesterday cut its total dividend by around a fifth, on profits which last year dropped to their lowest since 1975, made a loss in the first three months of this year.

Mr Frederick Davies, chairman, said that taking account of the short-term problems, and the short-term loss, the gross total dividend is cut from 2.41p to 2.18p with a 0.8542p final.

Profits for the year fell from £1.5m to £695,000 on a turnover up from £32.1m to £39.4m. But Mr Davies said that the group was running at a loss in the first quarter of last year, and managed to make a profit by the half-way stage, although he said last night "we are looking at a picture which is very dark compared to last year".

The results were much as forecast last September and the shares fell 2p to 28p.

Mr Davies says the results

reflected the impact of high interest rates, the strength of sterling, and the transport and engineering strikes.

During 1979 the group made 350 people redundant at a cost of around £120,000. Around 130 jobs went with the rationalization of the Scammell Trailer making plant at Haveringham, and a further 200 went from the hydraulic hoist and body offshoot. Anthony Carrmore, which suffered a £700,000 loss last year.

Mr Davies said: "It would only be a half truth to totally ascribe the result to outside factors. To a substantial degree, management was at fault in its failure to respond and act promptly to a significant fall-off in sales."

In America, the group's Anthony Carrmore continued losing as a result of the prolonged strike at the International Harvester company on which the group has an important sales dependence.

Business appointments

Mr Harrison takes over at Decca

Mr E. T. Harrison has been appointed director, chairman of the board and chief executive of Decca. Dr Jak Dimenstein has resigned as chairman and Mr N. G. Maw has resigned as chairman of the board and acting chief executive. Mr Maw continues as a director.

Mr H. C. Parkman becomes chairman and joint managing director of Decca. Mr Parkman and chairman and managing director of Parkman Consultants, Brigadier C. Parkman has retired as chairman but remains a director of both companies as well as group chairman. Mr Boyd is joint managing director of Decca. Mr W. R. G. Eakin, director of Parkman Consultants, assumes responsibility for the coordination and development of associated overseas practices. Mr H. A. Oulton has resigned as group secretary and secretary of Parkman Projects.

Mr Ian Warner has been made a director of J. B. & S. Lees. Mr E. L. S. Weiss has become financial director of Chubb and Son to succeed Mr J. F. McArthur.

who has taken main board responsibility for the group's operations in Australia, New Zealand and the Far East.

Mr J. J. O'Brien has been made a member of Decca's Birmingham local board. Mr B. S. Bowden, a general managers' assistant, becomes an executive local director, Dartington district. Mr G. B. Hibbert, an executive local director, Dartington district, has been made an executive local director, Liverpool district. Mr A. C. Wakelin, a general managers' assistant, has become an executive local director, Luton district.

Mr C. Hammond and Mr A. J. M. Koskull are now corporate finance directors (international) in Midland Bank International's new overseas European region.

Mr Colin Stenning has become director and general manager of St George's Taverns.

Mr D. E. Brinkley has gone on to be the director of governors of the British United Provident Association.

Mr Sydney Perry has joined the board of Southern Television.

Mr D. T. Keough has been made marketing director of Victoria Wine.

Mr R. G. Caplan has become a director of James H. Dennis.

Mr Norman W. McKillop is now managing director of Plasticisers.

JE England loses £85,000

J. E. England & Sons (Wellington), the Telford-based potato grower and merchant, made a pre-tax loss of £85,000 in 1979 compared with a £42,000 profit the year before. All the loss occurred in the first half with the second showing a small profit.

After passing the interim dividend, the group is paying a final of 0.57p gross compared with 2.05p in 1978.

Group turnover in 1979 fell from £37.7m to £31.5m. The group is now concentrating on its traditionally strong areas of trade, where it is market leader, and on expansion in the fast food market.

Below-the-line closure and reorganization costs in 1979 were £147,000. The management structure of the company has been changed. Mr P. T. McHugh has been appointed chief executive.

Commodities

COPPER was easier. Afternoon—Cash rose 1/2p to 235.00. Three months' futures rose 1/2p to 235.00. Six months' futures rose 1/2p to 235.00. London Metal Exchange (LME) closed at 235.00.

TIN was steady. Afternoon—Standard tin rose 1/2p to 2,350.00. Three months' futures rose 1/2p to 2,350.00. LME closed at 2,350.00.

LEAD was steady. Afternoon—Cash rose 1/2p to 115.00. Three months' futures rose 1/2p to 115.00. LME closed at 115.00.

PLATINUM was steady. Afternoon—Cash rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. Three months' futures rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. LME closed at 1,150.00.

NICKEL was steady. Afternoon—Cash rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. Three months' futures rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. LME closed at 1,150.00.

SUGAR was steady. Afternoon—Cash rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. Three months' futures rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. LME closed at 1,150.00.

COFFEE—ROBUSTA was steady. Afternoon—Cash rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. Three months' futures rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. LME closed at 1,150.00.

SOYABEAN MEAL was steady. Afternoon—Cash rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. Three months' futures rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. LME closed at 1,150.00.

WHEAT was steady. Afternoon—Cash rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. Three months' futures rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. LME closed at 1,150.00.

BARLEY was steady. Afternoon—Cash rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. Three months' futures rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. LME closed at 1,150.00.

RYE was steady. Afternoon—Cash rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. Three months' futures rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. LME closed at 1,150.00.

MAIZE was steady. Afternoon—Cash rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. Three months' futures rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. LME closed at 1,150.00.

WHEAT was steady. Afternoon—Cash rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. Three months' futures rose 1/2p to 1,150.00. LME closed at 1,150.00.

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Discount market

The Bank of England was still required to give extremely large assistance yesterday even though some £500m was released to the banking system through the latest arrangements for the sale and repurchase of gilt. Finance posted between 17 and 18 per cent for funds for much of the session, but were able to find closing balances down in a band of 15-16 per cent.

There were major drains on market liquidity via the repurchase of the exceptionally large loans of Friday, and because of the settlement for gilt sold by the Government Broker on Friday. In addition, balances were carried over the weekend in a slightly rundown state, and there was a small net take-up of Treasury bills to finance. As well as the gilt a small fall in the note circulation favoured the market.

MEAT COMMISSION: Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 14. Beef, 1st cut, 100 lb, 100.00. 2nd cut, 95.00. 3rd cut, 90.00. 4th cut, 85.00. 5th cut, 80.00. 6th cut, 75.00. 7th cut, 70.00. 8th cut, 65.00. 9th cut, 60.00. 10th cut, 55.00. 11th cut, 50.00. 12th cut, 45.00. 13th cut, 40.00. 14th cut, 35.00. 15th cut, 30.00. 16th cut, 25.00. 17th cut, 20.00. 18th cut, 15.00. 19th cut, 10.00. 20th cut, 5.00. 21st cut, 0.00. 22nd cut, 0.00. 23rd cut, 0.00. 24th cut, 0.00. 25th cut, 0.00. 26th cut, 0.00. 27th cut, 0.00. 28th cut, 0.00. 29th cut, 0.00. 30th cut, 0.00. 31st cut, 0.00. 32nd cut, 0.00. 33rd cut, 0.00. 34th cut, 0.00. 35th cut, 0.00. 36th cut, 0.00. 37th cut, 0.00. 38th cut, 0.00. 39th cut, 0.00. 40th cut, 0.00. 41st cut, 0.00. 42nd cut, 0.00. 43rd cut, 0.00. 44th cut, 0.00. 45th cut, 0.00. 46th cut, 0.00. 47th cut, 0.00. 48th cut, 0.00. 49th cut, 0.00. 50th cut, 0.00. 51st cut, 0.00. 52nd cut, 0.00. 53rd cut, 0.00. 54th cut, 0.00. 55th cut, 0.00. 56th cut, 0.00. 57th cut, 0.00. 58th cut, 0.00. 59th cut, 0.00. 60th cut, 0.00. 61st cut, 0.00. 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Foreign exchange

Stock Exchange Prices

Firm start to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, April 14. Dealings End, April 25. (Coatango Day, April 28. Settlement Day, May 6)
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

sterling spot

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Legal Appointments

COMMERCIAL LAWYER

GEISCO Limited requires a second lawyer for its European Headquarters located in Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey. The position will report to the European Counsel and applicants, male or female, should have four years' commercial legal experience in industry or private practice since qualifying. The lawyer appointed will work with the European Counsel in advising eleven European companies engaged in the data processing and computing services industry on all aspects of their businesses. All eleven companies are subsidiaries of General Electric Company, U.S.A.

Since the position will involve work of an international nature some overseas travel will be necessary. Fluency in German would be an advantage, although this is not an absolute requirement. Salary is negotiable at about £10,000 a year and other company benefits are available. Please write giving details of age, qualifications and experience to:-

S. P. Hayward
GEISCO Limited
2 Manorgate Road
Kingston-upon-Thames
Surrey KT2 7AR

*Not connected with The General Electric Company Limited of England.

GENERAL ELECTRIC

Newly Qualified Solicitor £6-7000

We're Lloyds & Scottish, one of the most successful and well established finance houses in the country, providing credit facilities for industry, commerce and the public nationwide. Because of our continued expansion we now wish to strengthen our legal team based in London.

You would be responsible for your own cases, mainly litigation, conveyancing, and some commercial. You will have the opportunity to gain experience in consumer credit law - a fast-developing field.

Ideally you should be admitted for about a year and have had good litigation and conveyancing experience in articles and since qualifying - but newly qualified applicants will also be considered. As well as a good starting salary, we can offer a full range of benefits including 4 weeks annual holiday, pension scheme and a profit sharing scheme after the necessary period of service.

Above all you must be adaptable and be able to communicate complex ideas in basic terms, so if you want more information about this new position, please write giving brief details of your career to date to:-

Desmond Sopp, Solicitor,
Lloyds & Scottish Finance Ltd.,
4 Vigo Street,
London W1X 2AD.

Solicitor

The Berac Group, an international leader in portable power systems, is seeking to appoint a Legal Advisor at the Group's Head Office.

Reporting to the Company Secretary, the successful applicant will be required to advise all levels of management on such legal matters that are encountered by a large commercial organisation. Emphasis is placed on contractual and property matters.

Preferred age range is 26-30. Salary will be commensurate with experience and the position offers attractive benefits and working conditions. Assistance with relocation will be given where necessary.

Applications should be made to:
Alan Holt, Management Planning Manager, Berac Group Limited,
1255 High Road, Whetstone, Leicestershire, LE8 2DF.

BERAC

Career Opportunity in the Oil Industry

SOLICITOR

London Based

Amoco Europe Incorporated is responsible for co-ordinating the petroleum exploration and production activities of the European subsidiaries of Standard Oil Company (Indiana), one of the world's larger oil companies. As a result of a promotional transfer to the United States, a vacancy has arisen in our European Law Department which offers substantial opportunity and scope within the frame-work of the oil industry. We invite applications from Solicitors with at least four years' commercial experience. Oil industry experience is desirable but not necessary. The work is varied and interesting and will involve some foreign travel. An excellent salary commensurate with experience will be offered to the successful applicant.

Applications, enclosing a curriculum vitae which will be treated with the strictest confidence, should be submitted to B. S. McLintock, Employee Relations Department, Amoco Europe Incorporated, 33 Cavendish Square, London W1M 9HF.

Legal Advisor CITY

The Corporation of Lloyd's is seeking to expand its Advisory Department, whose role is to investigate and advise on a wide range of matters concerning the Lloyd's Market, and is now looking for a qualified Barrister or Solicitor to join a highly professional team. Candidates who should be aged under 30 must have at least one year's commercial experience and knowledge of the Lloyd's Market would be a particular advantage.

The starting salary is in a range £5,500-£8,000. Fringe benefits include a subsidised lunch, non-contributory pension scheme and annual bonus. Please contact:-

Mrs. S. Woolcott,
Assistant Personnel Manager,
CORPORATION OF LLOYD'S
London House,
6 London Street, London EC3R 7AB
Tel. 01-623 7100 Ext. 3671
for an application form.

Lloyd's of London

LECTURESHIP IN LAW

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the Law School at Trinity College, Dublin. The successful candidate is likely to have teaching and research interests in one of the core legal subjects. The post holder will also be expected to provide some of the teaching in the Faculty of Economics and Social Studies.

Salary Scale: £5,500-£10,800 p.a.

Appointment is likely to be made on the range £5,500-£7,000 p.a. There is a non-contributory pension scheme. Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from:-

The Establishment Officer,
West, Trinity College,
Trinity Street,
Dublin 2.
Tel. 772347, ext. 1775.

The latest date for receipt of completed applications will be Monday 5th May 1980.

Frances E. Moran
RESEARCH STUDENTSHIP

This studentship, which may be renewed for a second year, is offered by the Trinity Trust for research in any area of law. The student will be required to submit a research paper of 10,000 words. The student will be paid, together with a stipend of £1,000 p.a. The student will be required to submit a research paper of 10,000 words. The student will be paid, together with a stipend of £1,000 p.a.

Applications should be addressed to:-
The Registrar of Trinity College,
Trinity Street,
Dublin 2.
before 20th May 1980.

CONVEYANCER

West End solicitors require a conveyancer with at least 3 years' Commercial Conveyancing experience since admission.

The applicant should be able to work without supervision and to justify a salary of at least £10,000 per annum.

Applications in writing with full c.v. to

Pritchard Englefield & Tobin,
(Reference JCL),
23 Great Castle Street,
W1N 3NG.

Cheshire

Prosecuting Solicitor
Po1c-Po2c
£7,125-£9,534
Chester

Solicitors with experience in criminal prosecutions are invited to apply for this new post in the Chester Office of the County Prosecuting Solicitor. The position involves regular advocacy in local Magistrates' Courts at Chester, Ellesmere Port and Neston.

For application form and further particulars, please contact the County Secretary and Solicitor, Cheshire County Council, County Hall, Chester, CH1 1SF. Closing date 7 May.

SECRETARIAL

The Middlesex Hospital Medical School, W1.

SECRETARY/SHORTHAND TYPIST

Required by Professor of Paediatrics. This post requires someone with initiative to deal personally with patients and medical staff. The work is in connection with teaching and scientific activities. Medical secretarial training an advantage but not essential. 4 weeks annual holiday. Salary on scale £4,000-£6,000 p.a. according to age and experience. Please telephone 01-636 8533, Ext. 7567.

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Operate from this plush, modern apartment, in the centre of London. Use your professional approach to advise influential clients on accommodation. Gain this opportunity to work in an upmarket property company by using your good secretarial skills to assist the managing director. Call Marion Bell on 734 0611. Drake Personnel (Consultants).

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Use your sales personality when you regularly represent the company in the field. You will be responsible for the sale of office premises. Train on word processing and computer use. Take charge of the general running of the department. Salary on scale £4,000-£6,000 p.a. according to age and experience. Use your audio-visual skills as a bonus to the company. Use your audio-visual skills as a bonus to the company. Use your audio-visual skills as a bonus to the company.

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MAISONNETTES TO MANIONS £5,500

Meet the charming, young director of this prestigious property company. Involve and ability to work on your own initiative will make you indispensable. With good secretarial skills and a lot of confidence you will enjoy the informal atmosphere of beautiful offices. Phone Karen Blakely on 020 0671. Drake Personnel (Consultants).

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR £4,800

3 busy men need their days out. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

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There is more than enough room in your Secretarial skills in the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

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Finishing now or in June/July? We have a vacancy for a Secretary in the Arts, Current Affairs, and General Secretarial, and the Business and Finance Departments. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

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SECRETARY

FOR TRAINING DEPARTMENT

(NO SHORTHAND)

UP TO £5,000

We are an energetic well organised industrial training department. We are looking for a Secretary to provide support for our training department. The work is varied and very demanding and although good typing is required the successful candidate will be a person with initiative and a good knowledge of the training department. The successful candidate will be a person with initiative and a good knowledge of the training department. The successful candidate will be a person with initiative and a good knowledge of the training department.

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ALFRED MARKS BUREAU LTD.,
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£4,000+

We are an international recruitment consultancy who are in need of an experienced telex operator. You will be sending telexes all over the world and will also act as a relief to our receptionist. We will train you to operate a P.A.S.-1 telexboard, knowledge of another language is an advantage. Age 20+. You will be based at our client's office near Piccadilly Circus. If interested please contact:

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Required by internal school, good skills. Starting salary £4,500. Please apply in writing: 25 Cromwell Road, S.W.7.

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Required by senior academic and administrative staff. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

GRADUATE OPPORTUNITY £6,000

P.A./PRINTING

An excellent opportunity has arisen to work as P.A./Secretary to the M.D. of a small printing company opposite Liverpool St. Station. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

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Your organizing ability will be used to the full dealing with students in person and by phone and the administration of the course. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

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Required for the busy Bowditch & Co. Ltd. in Villiers. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

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You will be an integral part of the team of parliamentary secretaries. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

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PASSPORT TO PERSONNEL £5,700

Need to be more involved? As a P.A. to the dynamic Personnel Director of a large international company, you'll have all the involvement you need. Learn all about making management policies and industrial relations too. Be part of the VICTORY WOODFORD on 223 0673. DRAKE PERSONNEL (CONSULTANTS).

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Supervise friendly staff, deal with customers for the day, and much more in this top position. Salary £4,500 p.a. If you want to know more about this exciting job, call Sandra Gibbons on 223 0673. DRAKE PERSONNEL (CONSULTANTS).

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There is more than enough room in your Secretarial skills in the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

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SENIOR SECRETARY

Are you looking for an interesting, worthwhile job? Make a real impact in the prevention of smoking. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

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Join a leading U.S. Bank and reap high rewards and excellent prospects. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

PLEASE CALL M & J PERSONNEL 588 0174.

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Widenfield and Nicholson have immediate vacancy for assistant in subsidiary rights department. The work involves detailed correspondence and close liaison with American publishers. Candidates must be able to work on their own initiative and typing is essential. Please ring:

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Do you enjoy making with other young competent people. Then this large European company has a vacancy for a Secretary. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

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As P.A./Sec. in Reservations, you will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

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Earn £4,000-£5,000 p.a. as Secretary in Publishing. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

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